

THE
WORLD displayed;
OR, A
CURIOUS COLLECTION
OF
VOYAGES and TRAVELS,

SELECTED FROM THE
WRITERS of all NATIONS.
IN WHICH THE
CONJECTURES and INTERPOLATIONS
OF

Several vain EDITORS and TRANSLATORS
ARE EXPUNGED;
Every Relation is made concise and plain,
AND

The Divisions of Countries and Kingdoms
are clearly and distinctly noted.

Embellished with CUTS.

The FOURTH EDITION, corrected.

V O L. XIV.

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THE
WORLD DISPLAYED

OR A
CURIOUS COLLECTION
OF
VOYAGES AND TRAVELS

WITH
A
COMPREHENSIVE
AND
INTERESTING
DESCRIPTION



OF
THE
MUSEUM
OF
NATURAL
HISTORY
AND
CIVIL
ANTIQUITIES
IN
LONDON

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OF THE

FOURTEENTH VOLUME.

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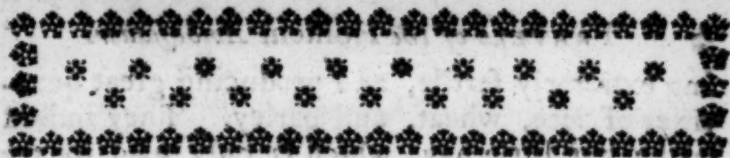
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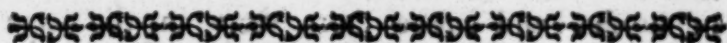
T H E
T R A V E L S

O F T H E

AMBASSADORS from the Duke of *Holstein*,

I N T O

M O S C O V Y, T A R T A R Y, and P E R S I A.



C H A P. IV.

A Description of the Province of Schirwan, and the Village of Niasabath. They set out for Scamachie; arrive at the Village of Pyrmaraas, and visit the Tombs of two Persian Saints. They make their Public Entry into Scamachie, where they are entertained by the Governor. An Account of the Ceremonies used by the Armenians at the Baptism of the Cross, and at a Festival observed by the Persians in Memory of the Prophet Hali; with a Description of the City of Scamachie, and the adjacent Country.

THE country where they were cast
 ashore was at this time covered with
 an agreeable verdure, and thus continued
 till the middle of *December*, the soil being

ing extremely fertile, and producing great quantities of rice, wheat, and barley. They indeed make but little hay, which is only used for the convenience of travellers, as the cattle are kept abroad all the year round. This province, which is named *Schirawan*, produces a great number of vines, which are planted all along the hedges, and fastened to the trees. It has also vast quantities of wild fowl, especially pheasants; there are hares in abundance, with two kinds of foxes, one like those of *Europe*, but the other have wool instead of hair, with white bellies, black ears, and tails that are not so large as those of our foxes, these last run in herds in the night time about the villages, and make a doleful noise. The inhabitants use buffaloes instead of horses, and make them draw in the same manner; they feed them with fenugreek, which they sow, and cut green, herb and seed together, and thus give it them to eat. Their cows milk produces a cream of two fingers thick, of which they make great plenty of excellent butter; but they make all their cheese of sheep's milk.

The village of *Niasabath* consists only of fifteen or sixteen poor houses scattered up and down. They are built of clay, and are exactly square, with flat roofs covered with turf, so that a man may conveniently walk upon them. But notwithstanding the mean appearance of these houses on the outside, some of them were handsome enough within, and the floors covered with tapestry; but the village being too small to contain all the people belonging

longing to the retinue, they pitched their tents near the Ambassador's lodgings: they were here obliged to be contented with eating mouldy scraps of bread found in the ship, and with drinking the muddy water of an adjacent torrent.

On the 19th of *November* the Governor of *Derbent* sent two persons well dressed to compliment the Ambassadors upon their arrival in *Persia*, and to make them a present of two horses, two oxen, twelve sheep, twenty pullets, three pitchers of wine, one pitcher of water, two panniers of apples, and three sacks of wheat flour; but the Governor's letter mentioning only one horse, and the Ambassador *Brugman* finding his not so good as the other, absolutely refused to accept of it, though the persons who brought them solemnly protested that this mistake was occasioned by the Governor's supposing there had been but one Ambassador; but that they being informed by the way that there were two, they had brought the best horse they could get, from the opinion that the Governor would approve of it; yet notwithstanding all their excuses, Mr. *Brugman*, persisted in his resolution, and, contrary to the customs both of *Persia* and *Moscovy*, sent these persons back without any presents, which was so highly resented by the Governor, that he ever after did the Ambassadors all the ill offices in his power.

On the 22d of *November* the Ambassadors sent one of their retinue with a *Persian* interpreter

preter to *Scamachie* to give notice of their arrival to the Khan or Governor-General of the province of *Schirwan*, and to desire him to furnish them with every thing necessary for continuing their journey; but the Governor, having before received intelligence of their arrival, had immediately dispatched a Mehemander, or Conductor, who in *Persia* supplies the office of the *Moscovite* Pristaffs; but the gentlemen who were sent were not so fortunate as to meet him. The Mehemander arrived on the 29th of *November* richly dressed, and extremely well mounted, his horse's harness being embroidered with gold and turquoises. He made the Ambassadors a very handsome and obliging compliment, and offered them his utmost assistance while they continued under his conduct, which was to be as far as *Scamachie*; upon which they treated him and his retinue with some fruit and brandy, entertained him with their music, and discharged some of their great guns, with which he was so pleased; that he no sooner returned to his lodgings than he sent them a present of five sheep, three pitchers of wine, and some pomegranates.

The messengers returned with advice, that meeting with the Khan at some distance from the city, he had given them a very kind reception, assuring them that he had already dispatched a Mehemander to conduct and provide for the Ambassadors, adding, that he had been informed that their retinue consisted of 300 persons; but that if they had twice the number they should be very welcome, and that he
longed

longed to see them. He then enquired concerning the quality and temper of the Ambassadors, and their manner of life.

The first effects they felt from the Governor of *Derbent's* displeasure was his denying them a sufficient number of cattle for the prosecution of their journey, which obliged them to send back their *Mehemander* to *Scamachie* to procure some from thence, and this forced them to stay near a month at the village of *Niasabiath*.

On the 9th of *December* the *Tartar* Prince of *Tarku*, whom they had seen near *Terki*, came to pay them a visit in company with his brother and a retinue of twenty persons, and the next day he sent them a present of an ox, some sheep, and two large panniers of apples; in return for which the Ambassadors presented him with some ells of cloth and sattin, a vessel of brandy, a roll of tobacco, and a barrel of gun-powder of eighty pounds weight, which he most earnestly desired. What gave the Ambassadors the highest satisfaction at this time was the return of their *Mehemander*, who brought them the agreeable news, that within fifteen days they should be provided with cattle and carriages sufficient for their journey. Accordingly a few days after some horses and camels arrived, the rest being delayed by the falling of the snow, which rendered the roads slippery; the camels, whose hoofs are not so flat as those of other beasts, cannot travel in the snow without much hazard, and this obliged the Ambassadors to stay ten days longer, during which Mr. *Brugman*,

6 TRAVELS of the Holstein Ambassadors

notwithstanding the remonstrances of the *Persians*, very imprudently caused some pieces of timber that were brought by the *Sophi's* orders to the sea side for the building of ships, to be cut in pieces to make carriages for the artillery.

On the 21st of *December*, two *Mehemanders*, one from *Scamachie*, and the other from *Derbent*, brought 40 camels, 30 waggons drawn by buffaloes, and 80 horses, when the baggage being loaded and sent before with part of the retinue, there were but 60 horses left for 94 persons; some of the servants and guards were therefore obliged to travel on foot. They proceeded to the southward, along the coast of the *Caspian Sea*.

The first place at which they lodged was a village called *Mordore*, four leagues from *Niasabath*. The houses, which were round, like those of the *Tartars*, were built of ozers and canes. They spent the night very ill for want of fuel, this village lying in the midst of fens. The many springs about this place send forth their waters with such violence that they never freeze, and the brooks which flow from them are full of swans, whose down is gathered for the *Sophi's* beds. The inhabitants, who are called *Padars*, use a peculiar dialect, which partakes both of the *Persian* and *Turkish* tongues. They are *Mahometans*, and partly of the *Turkish* sect, accompanied with some odd superstitions: thus they never cut their meat after it is dressed, 'till it is almost cold, and if any one happens to breathe

breathe or blow upon it, they cast it away as impure.

On the second day after they left *Niasabath*, the Mehemander brought them 20 horses more, when leaving part of their useless baggage behind, the whole retinue mounted on horseback, and travelled to a very handsome village called *Tachoufi*, and having proceeded three leagues farther came to the mountain of *Barmach*, where they lodged that night in a caravanera. These edifices are built in the desarts of *Persia*, within a day's journey of each other, for the accommodation of travellers. This was an ancient square structure of free-stone, about 40 paces each way, and here they staid all the following day.

On the 26th of *December* they left *Barmach*, the sun then casting a greater heat than it does with us in *May*. The baggage took the way through the plain towards *Bakuje*; but the Ambassadors, with the rest of the company on horseback, proceeded through the mountains, and staid that night at the village of *Chanega*, where they met with most excellent fruit and honey, but the water was muddy and stinking.

On the 27th they travelled to the village of *Pymaraas*, famous for the sepulchre of two *Persian* Saints, one of whom is named *Seid-Ibrahim*. This sepulchre is surrounded with walls, and has two courts like a castle; but though the Ambassadors were very desirous of taking a view of it, they were only permitted to enter the first court, in which were many square stones set up on the end, they being the tombstones

stones of private persons. Our Author, however, having an extraordinary curiosity to obtain a sight of this tomb, got into the first court, from thence under the pretence of taking some inscriptions in his book, he got into the second, where he found many other inscriptions in the copying of which he bestowed about half an hour; when, perceiving that the *Persians* took no farther notice of him, he ventured to draw a wooden pin with which the door that leads into the edifice was fastened, and immediately entering it, found many arched apartments: In the first was a tomb, inclosed within an iron gate just opposite to the door; it was about two feet high, and had as many steps to get up to it. On the left hand he observed a door that lead him into a large and very lightsome gallery, the walls of which were extremely white, and the floor covered with rich tapestry. In another apartment on the right hand, which was vaulted, he saw eight high tombs; and through this passed into another vault where was the sepulchre of *Seid-Ibrahim*, whose tomb, which was two feet above the ground, was covered with a carpet of yellow damask. At the head and feet, and also on each side, were several wax candles in brass candlesticks, and many lamps hung down from the roof of the vault. Thus our Author satisfied his curiosity, without receiving any prejudice from the superstition of the people.

About two musquet shot to the east of the same village is a very sumptuous sepulchre in a rock, belonging to a *Persian* Saint named *Tiribabba*,

ribabba, said to the master of *Seid-Ibrahim*. Both these places are famed for the many pilgrimages made thither by the *Persians*. Here several chambers, niches and holes are formed within the rock, in which the Pilgrims take up their lodgings, and perform their devotions; but some of these are so high, that they cannot get up to them without ladders of twelve or fifteen feet in length. Our Author and two others made a shift, however, to get up to the top of the rock, where they found four spacious rooms, and several niches cut within the rock to serve for beds; but what most surprised them was their finding upon the very top a vault, which, as well as the places about it, seemed as if the rock was made up of sand and muscle-shells.

The inhabitants of the village of *Pymaraas* abstain from drinking all sorts of wine for fear of defiling these holy places, and it is observable, that near the sepulchre of *Seid-Ibrahim*, is a large cistern of 52 feet in length, and 20 feet in breadth, inclosed by a wall of free-stone, where the inhabitants keep their snow and ice.

On the 29th the Khan sent to inform the Ambassadors that they might make their entrance into *Scamachie* that day; but just as they were ready to take horse, a messenger arrived to intreat them to stay at *Pymaraas* 'till the next; and to show that this was not done with any sinister design, he brought a present of wine, pomegranates, apples, pears, quinces and chestnuts, and for each of the Ambassadors a very fine horse with all its furniture. This delay, it
was

was afterwards found, proceeded from the Khan's Astrologers, who had told him, that it was no fortunate day for receiving of strangers.

The next morning, however, they mounted on horseback, in order to make their entrance into the city, which was at the distance of three leagues. When they had proceeded about a league they were met by a messenger who bid them welcome, and told them that the Khan would come in person to receive them without the city, and afterwards march in the front of the cavalcade. Within a league of the city they met with thirty gentlemen, who having taken a view of them returned, and soon after they met with 100 more, who opened on both sides, and let them pass through them. About two musquet shot farther, they met with another troop of horse, among whom were twelve persons who had their turbans pointed at the top, to shew that they were of the posterity of the Prophet *Hali*. These, saluting the Ambassadors with a low inclination of the head, bid them welcome, and having kept them company for half a league, there appeared to the right a body of 500 horsemen, and being told that the Khan and his Calenter, or Lieutenant, were among them, in person, and that the open fields were more proper for the ceremonies used at the reception of Ambassadors than the high road which was dirty, they proceeded directly towards the Khan, who waited upon an eminence for their coming, and advanced towards them, as soon as he perceived them turn that way. He had on his right hand a guard of six men armed with
gilt

gilt bow and arrows, and as many on his left with musquets, and was attended by a numerous retinue of gentlemen on horseback, all dressed in brocade, with mantles and caps embroidered with gold and silver. Being come near the Ambassadors, he, contrary to the custom of *Persia*, took one and then the other by the hand, and ordering wine to be poured into a silver vessel, drank to the Ambassadors, who pledged him twice. The Calenter and the *Moscovite* Envoy already mentioned, who was now with the Khan, also bid them welcome, by giving them their hands.

As they marched along, the *German* and *Persian* music led the way, consisting of trumpets, hautboys, timbrels, cornets, tabors, and a brass instrument called kerrenai, which was eight feet long, and two feet in diameter at the end. They had not proceeded far before the Khan ordered a halt, and drank again to the Ambassadors, and while they were pledging him, a jester diverted the company by singing, playing with castagnets, and throwing himself into a thousand ridiculous postures. Within a quarter of a league of the city, they were met by a body of 2000 *Armenian* foot divided into five regiments, distinguished by their colours, and music, which consisted of pipes and two brass basons struck against each other. Here another halt was made for the Ambassadors to drink, and at the city gate they were received by another band of music.

The Khan, having invited the Ambassadors to supper, would have them cross the court on horseback

horseback to the very entrance of his apartments; but the rest of his retinue alighted at the outer gate. As the floors of all the apartments were covered with rich carpets, the *Persians* took of their shoes before they went in, but the Ambassadors and their retinue were conducted in their boots, through three handsome rooms, into a sumptuous and spacious hall, the walls of which were hung with paintings of naked figures. Round a fountain, which was in the middle of the hall, stood several silver flaggons, and bottles of wine to cool, and several tables were furnished with all sorts of preserves. Opposite to the fountain, the Ambassadors were complimented with seats made after the *European* fashion; the Khan causing one of them to sit at his right hand, and the other at his left. Upon the ground sat the Calerter, the Khan's astrologer, physician, and other persons of distinction. The gentlemen and others of the retinue were placed on the floor on the other side of the hall, while the musicians stood directly opposite to the Khan, and continued playing as long as the entertainment lasted; and near the door stood several lusty young men dressed in brocade, with their bows and arrows in a shooting posture. Every one present stood with his back to the wall, and his face toward the Khan's and the company; a custom constantly observed in all assemblies in *Persia*.

Many small tables, filled with fruit and preserves, were first brought in, and two pages were employed

employed in filling wine round to all the company. After some time these were removed, and the like tables covered with fine painted callico, placed in their stead, to serve the meat upon. About an hour after, the meat being taken away, some other conserves was served up, and these tables being soon removed, great pieces of linen, which were to answer the purpose of table-cloths, were spread upon the floor, on the tapestry. At supper the carver came in with a great wooden dish full of pieces of a thin-baked paste, three feet in length, and as many in breadth, one of which he gave to each of the company instead of a napkin. The meat was then brought in large pewter dishes, which being set in the middle of the hall, the carver kneeling down, cut it into pieces, and divided it into little dishes, one of which was served to every person in the company, each of whom had a pot standing by him, to spit in, and to hold bones, parings, and cores of fruit.

As the Governor's palace was seated upon the ascent of a hill, they had the view of a vast number of lamps, which in obedience to the Khan's orders were put up in all the houses of the city; and the Khan, being desirous of letting the Ambassadors see his dexterity in shooting, shewed them a lamp, which he struck out twice successively with a musquet shot. In short, he at length conducted the Ambassadors into a room that had fire in it, where he again entertained them with conserves, wine, and brandy, of which last a *Persian* of

quality took so much, that he was the next day found dead in his bed. The company parted about midnight, and the Ambassadors, with their retinue, were lodged among the *Armenians*.

On the 6th of *January* the Ambassadors, at the Khan's invitation, went to see the ceremonies used by the *Armenians* at the consecration of the Holy Water, or the Baptism of the Cross. This feast is also celebrated by the *Moscovites*, and some other *Christians*. It was performed without the city, mass being first said with much the same ceremonies as are used by the *Roman* Catholics in *Europe*; after which a sermon was preached by their Bishop, at the *Armenian* chapel, at which the Ambassadors were present.

The *Armenians* having, by the Khan's order, brought fifteen horses for the gentlemen of the retinue, they rode to the river side, half a league from the city, while the people flocking thither from all parts, went in procession with pictures, crosses, and banners, under a guard of a strong party of soldiers, to protect them against the insults of the *Mahometans*. The Khan had caused a tent, very richly furnished, to be pitched opposite the palace, where the ceremony was to be performed; and a collation was ordered to be got ready. On his left hand was the *Moscovite* Envoy, with many other gentlemen; and on his right hand, the Ambassadors and the chief of their retinue, who being seated, the Khan ordered the *Armenians* to begin their ceremonies, which they accordingly did,

by

by reading at the river side, while four men leaped in naked, and swam about for some time to open the waters which were a little frozen. A spaniel happening to leap in after them, greatly delighted the *Persians*, who, considering a dog as an unclean creature, were glad to see these ceremonies thus defiled. After the Bishop had continued reading for an hour, and the assembly had given over singing and playing on timbrels, he poured a little consecrated oil in the water; and after having dipped into it a cross set with precious stones, gave it his benediction, by holding the Crozier over it. This was no sooner done, than the *Armenians* ran to the river side, some of them plunging into it, others drinking, and others sprinkling their faces, while some of the Khan's domestics ridiculed them, by dashing the water among the priests and women, till he commanded them to forbear; though he at the same time permitted his jester, and some others, to caper about in mockery of the poor *Armenians*, who danced about their Bishop. The Khan's physician, who was an *Arabian*, had the impudence to ask the Ambassadors, whether they believed *Jesus Christ* to be the son of God; to which he was answered, that they believed him to be the true God; but that it was very uncivil to scoff at their religion, about which they should not dispute with him. The ceremony was concluded with a good collation, at which the Khan drank so plentifully, that finding himself unable to bear more, he mounted his horse, and left the company without the least ceremony

mony, and all the rest of the *Persians* followed his example. It is indeed customary with the *Persians* to go when they have enough, without making the least excuse; and this freedom is always observed, both by their guests and those who invite them.

During their abode at *Scamachie*, which was three months, all which time they waited for orders from court, the Governor and Calenter did every thing in their power to divert them with hunting, and frequent visits and presents. On the 10th of *January*, the Calenter, having invited the Ambassadors and all their retinue to a great feast, conducted them through all the apartments of his palace, which, both in its buildings and furniture, much exceeded that of the Khan. The hall where they dined was arched, and adorned with a kind of stucco work, wrought into leaves and branches, and from this room there was a prospect over all the gardens; but what appeared most agreeable to our author, was a fountain, which, issuing out of the gallery on one side of the hall, cast its water very high, and falling into a lower basin, was from thence conveyed to another fountain in the middle of the garden. The Khan, with several of his courtiers, and the Marshal of the *Sophi's* court, who had lately arrived from *Ispahan*, were also present at the feast, which lasted till night, when the Ambassadors were conducted back to their lodgings with lighted torches.

On the 18th of *January*, the Steward, Secretary, and Comptroller, were sent with the Ambassador's

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Ambassador's presents to the Khan; these consisted of ten ells of scarlet, and five ells of blue sattin, a barrel of brandy, a chest containing two dozen of bottles of different sorts of spirits, and some knives with amber hafts.

On the 5th of *February*, our Author by accident went into a great house near the bazar, which from its structure, and the nobleness of its galleries, resembled a college. This edifice he found to be one of those public schools called *Mandresa*, of which there are many in *Persia*. While he was taking a view of the buildings, he saw some walking, and others sitting with books in their hands; one of the maderis who read public lectures, coming up, and observing upon our author's cane the following words engraved in *Arabic*, *In the name of the merciful God who sheweth mercy*, (a sentence which the *Persians* generally put at the beginning of their writings) he desired to have it, promising to give him a better the next day; but our Author refusing to give it him, he cut out the word *Alla* or *God*, and putting it into a clean piece of paper, told him that the name of God ought not to be put upon a walking stick.

The next day, intending to return to the same college, our Author caused a very handsome celestial globe to be brought along with him; but by mistake, he happened to go into another, where he was very civilly received by the Professors, Regents, and Students, who much admired the globe, and were surprized to find that *Astronomy* and the *Mathematics*

in general flourished better in *Europe* than in *Persia*, where they were still ignorant of the use of the globe, and only made use of an astrolabe, for the instruction of their students; they could, however, name all the signs of the Zodiac, and let him know, that they were acquainted with the names of many of the stars.

At another time, he had the curiosity to go into a Metzid or school, near his quarters, where they instruct their children. The young scholars sat all round close to the wall, the Mollah, or school-master, with some other aged persons, sitting in the midst of the hall, whither they also invited him as soon as they saw him enter. The Mollah permitted him to turn over the Koran he had in his hand, which done, he took it back and kissed it, and then offered to him to kiss, which he declining, and kissing another instead of it, which he held in his hand, the master told him with a smile, he had done very well. Our author saw here, among the rest, an Astrologer of near 65 years of age, who was reading *Euclid* to his disciples. Our Author knew the book by the figures, and having made some demonstrations as well as he could express himself, the old man was so pleased with him, that he pulled out his brass astrolabe, and asked him whether he had ever seen such an instrument, or knew the use of it. Our Author no sooner answered in the affirmative, and that he had one at his lodgings, but he was so urgent with him to see it, that he went home to fetch it, and also brought

brought the globe along with him. They were much surpris'd at the instruments, and much more when he understood that he had made the astrolabe himself; and being desirous of seeing how he could divide the degrees with such exactness, as they had no instruments fit for that purpose, he shew'd them how this might easily be performed; at which the old man was so well satisfied, that he ever after gave him all possible demonstrations of his friendship, frequently visit'd him, and gave him the longitude and latitude of the chief cities of *Asia*, which he afterwards compar'd with his own observations, and found very exact

The 7th of *February*, being the 21st day of their principal Fast at Lent, the *Persians* celebrated their festival in memory of their great Patron *Hali*, which was performed in a house built for that purpose without the city. Opposite a gallery, in which were the Khan, the Calenter, and other principal courtiers, was placed an open chair, eight feet high, under a kind of linen canopy, for the Chatib or Prelate, who was dress'd in blue, the mourning colour of the *Persians*. He read for two hours in a book of the life and memorable actions of *Hali*, singing out his words in a loud and doleful, yet intelligible voice, except when he came to some extraordinary passage, or moral sentence, when he only pronounced the first word, the rest being sung by the Priests who surrounded him in great numbers; and at the end of every such passage, one of them cried out

out, *God's curse on him who killed Hali*. When the whole assembly answered, *Rather more than less*. On his coming to a passage, where *Hali* tells his children that he shall not live long, and prophesies by whom he is to be killed, the *Persians* begin to weep.

When the Chatib had ended, the Khan sent him a silk garment, and then the procession began, in which three camels carried three coffins, covered with black cloth, which represent those of *Hali* and his two sons. These were followed by two chests covered with blue cloth, full of the religious treatises written by *Hali*; next appeared two very fine horses, carrying upon their saddles, bows, arrows, turbants, and flags. Then came a man carrying on the top of a long pole, a kind of tower, to which was fastened four scymeters, so covered with ribbons, that they could scarce be distinguished. In the rear came many men with little boxes on their heads, in which the Koran lay open. The boxes were covered with feathers and flowers, and the men came dancing and leaping in cadence, to a doleful tune played on hautboys, timbrels, flagelets, and tabors; while on the other side, many boys danced and sung together, clapping one another upon the shoulders, and repeating the name of *Hali* and those of his two sons, *Hassan* and *Hosseïn*. This festival is celebrated on the same day all over *Persia*. The day after the fast, the Khan made a magnificent entertainment for the whole court, at which the Ambassadors were present.

On the 27th, the messenger sent to *Ispahan*, returned with orders for the departure of the Ambassadors, at which they were greatly rejoiced, and resolved to amuse themselves with hunting before they left *Scamachie*. As the Khan was prevented from going with them by some extraordinary business, he sent them his huntsman, with his hounds and hawks, and among the rest a leopard, so well taught, that he would start and take a hare, as well as a greyhound, and was as much at command as a setting dog.

On the 1st of *March*, the *Persians* celebrated another festival called *Ghummebater*, in memory of the day when *Hali* took possession of the estate of *Mahomet*. Upon this occasion the Khan treated the Ambassadors under a tent near the river side, and they had the diversion of several sorts of dancing; in particular a youth played extremely well upon two little cymbals, dancing to them with great address; and an *Arabian Moor* leaped and danced between the *Porcelain* dishes in which the meat was brought up, with such skill as not to touch one of them. The Khan being also disposed to shew his skill at the bow, caused one of the rings, with which the *Persians* bend their bows, and which they commonly wear upon their thumbs, to be fastened to a horse-hair, and held by a boy at above six paces distance, when he cut it twice one after another with his arrow; and an apple being thrown up into the air, he shot it with a firelock.

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On the 20th of *March*, the Khan came in company with the Calenter to take leave of the Ambassadors, as he was going a journey, and did not expect to return before their departure; but his physician, who pretended to some skill in astrology, having observed, that the sky told him it was no lucky hour to enter into the Ambassadors lodgings, they fell to drinking plentifully in the court. When the Khan, taking particular notice of a very handsome lad who was one of the Ambassador *Crusius's* pages, asked the physician whether he were not a very fine boy, and said, that he wished he was his son; upon which the physician began to consult the heavens again, though it was neither night nor a clear sky, and told the Khan that if by viewing the boy again he could imprint a strong idea of him in his imagination, and would immediately go and pay a visit to one of his women, he might infallibly get such another boy, which he and his company believin, he viewed the boy once more, and then getting on horseback immediately departed.

On the 24th the Khan of *Scamachie* sent away the usual New-year's-gift for the *Sophi*, which consisted of some very fine horses richly harnessed, some camels laden with *Russia* leather, several rich stuffs, 30 bags filled with swans down, and a great number of handsome boys and girls. The Khan at the same time going his journey, left the management of the Ambassadors affairs to the Calenter, who immediately after sent to their quarters the sum

of 60 tumains, amounting to 1000 crowns, as a reimbursement for the expences they had been at during their stay at *Scamachie*; but this not amounting to half the sum, the Ambassador *Brugman* sent him word, that he knew not whether the sum was sent from the Sophi or Khan; but that it should be carried sealed up as it was to *Ispahan*, and that he could not forbear complaining of the injury done them in detaining them so long, contrary to the orders of the court; desiring, that speedy care might be taken for their departure. To this, the Calenter replied, that the sum had been sent by his Majesty's orders, and that he was much concerned at the delay of their journey, which was occasioned by the largeness of their retinue, and the quantity of their baggage.

Scamachie, the capital city of the province of *Schirwan*, is situated in a valley inclosed between two mountains, and lies in $40^{\circ} . 50'$ north latitude. It is divided into the north and south city. The walls of the last were pulled down by *Shah Abbas*; but the former, which is somewhat larger than the other, and contains about 900 houses, has its walls still standing; though they are so low, and surrounded by so poor a ditch, that a person may pass into the city at any time. The whole city has five gates; but the streets are very narrow, and the houses, which are mostly built with earth, are very low. The inhabitants are chiefly *Armenians* and *Georgians*, who speaking different languages, here make use of the *Turkish*, which is common to both, not only

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in the province of *Schirwan*, but all over *Persia*. Their chief trade consists in silk, either raw or wove, and callicoës. Most of the shops are in the south city, where is the great bazar, into which many streets enter, all of them covered for the conveniency of the shopkeepers. Near the above bazar, are also two large storehouses divided into many galleries and chambers, one for the convenience of the *Moscovite* merchants, who there sell *Russia* leather, furs, copper, tin, and other commodities; the other is for the *Circassian Tartars*, who bring scarcely any thing else but horses, women, young lads, and handsome maids, which they steal on the frontiers of *Moscovy*. The *Jews* have also a part of this storehouse assigned them for their merchandizes, which consist of the best woollen tapestry, silk stuffs, callico, gold and silver brocades, bows, arrows, and scymeters. The city has also three hamans or public baths, the use of which is as general in *Persia* as in *Moscovy*.

Near the city are the ruins of an old strong castle, upon a high and steep mountain, near which is a valley watered by a very pleasant brook, and adorned in the spring with an incredible quantity of tulips. Between this fort and the city, are also to be seen, upon a mountain that exceeds the last mentioned in height, two chapels; in the largest of which is a very high sepulchre, hung about with many pieces of cloth and other rags of different colours, and also several rods of iron pointed at the end like arrows; in the other are two

two tombs adorned much after the same manner. They belonged to some of their Saints, and near them the inhabitants frequently perform their devotions. From this last chapel there is an easy descent into a large vault, where is a sepulchre of one of their King's daughters, named *Amalek Kanna*, who having an aversion to marriage, and being betrothed by her father to a certain *Tartarian* Prince, laid violent hands on herself. In the hot season the inhabitants of the city retire to this and the other mountain, the traders and shopkeepers of *Scamachie* staying there only in the night, while the Khan and other persons of quality, dwell there in tents during the three hottest months of the year.



C H A P. VII.

They leave Scamachie and proceed to Ardebil. Their Entrance into that City. The Manner in which are celebrated the Festivals of Kurban and Ashur; the latter of which is particularly described, A Description of Ardebil, and of several rich Sepulchres near that City, particularly that of Shab Sefi.

ON the 27th of *March*, 60 waggons and 120 saddle-horses being brought to the Ambassadors for the prosecution of their journey, they sent away their baggage immediately, and followed it the next morning, when the Ambassa-

dor *Brugman*, being much dissatisfied with the treatment he had received at *Scamachie*, ordered them to depart two hours before day, when proceeding on foot without the least noise, they took horse without the gate. Having travelled about a league and a half, they came to the sepulchre of another *Persian* Saint, and being overtaken by a violent storm of lightning, thunder, wind, rain and snow, they had the misfortune of being obliged to endure the tempest, and to spend the night under the bare heavens for want of their tents; and the next day the Ambassador *Brugman*, finding that some of the cannon had been left behind at *Scamachie* for want of camels, exclaimed in very abusive terms against the Khan and Calenter in the presence of the Mehemander, and had it not been for the want of provisions and lodgings, would have obliged the whole company to stay there 'till they were brought up. But it being resolved to proceed forwards, they advanced two leagues to a caravanfera, and after travelling two leagues more came to the top of the mountain of *Scamachie*; on which they passed through a fine fertile plain, which both in spring and winter, is as cold as most parts of *Europe*. But no sooner were they come to the descent, than they saw before them another plain that extended above ten leagues, and was covered with a beautiful verdure; and soon after, they discovered at a distance, the confluence of the two celebrated rivers *Araxes* and *Cyrus*. After an easy descent, they took up their lodgings in some *Tartarian* huts, which

which the shepherds had set up near their flocks.

On the 30th of *March* they proceeded four leagues through the plain to the village of *Kafilu*, and by the way met with a company of *Tartars*, who had packed up their huts, household goods, and other moveables, with their wives and children, in waggons, or upon horses, cows and asses. They had ever after very fair weather and a serene sky, except when they travelled over the mountains, where it appeared a little overcast in the morning, but these clouds were soon after dispelled by the beams of the sun.

On the 31st, they proceeded two leagues to the village of *Tzarwat* upon the right side of the river *Kur*, where the houses were all built of reeds and canes, and covered with earth. The meadow grounds along this river are full of liquorice, the stalks of which are sometimes thicker than a man's arm, and the juice is incomparably sweeter than that of *Europe*.

The river *Kur*, anciently called *Cyrus*, is a common boundary between the two provinces of *Shirwan* and *Mokan*, which are joined by a bridge of boats near *Tzarwat*. They had no sooner passed over this bridge, but another Mehemander sent by the Governor of *Ardebil*, brought them 40 fresh camels and 300 horses, because they could not so conveniently make use of waggons in passing over the mountains, and also furnished them with plenty of provisions. That night they took up their quarters in huts set up for that purpose

purpose at the entrance of a very extensive heath.

The next day they travelled four *Persian* leagues over the heath, and lodged that night in huts as before. In passing along they saw a kind of deer feeding in herds, which resembled harts, but were red; and their horns being without brow-antlers, were smooth and turned backwards like those of the wild goat. Being the next day forced to leave the heath, which was the nearest way, for want of water, they travelled to the torrent of *Balbaru*, where they found abundance of tortoises that had laid their eggs in the sand. Some of the people, having the curiosity to cross the current to see the manner in which the inhabitants lived on the other side, found many of their children entirely naked, and the rest covered only with callico smocks. They received these gentlemen very civilly, and treated them with milk, imagining they were sent for by the *Sophi* to serve in his wars against the *Turks*; they therefore wished them all imaginable success, and that they might drive their enemies before them as far as *Stamboul* or *Constantinople*.

On the 6th of *April*, travelling across the mountains and rocks, they were unable to advance above two leagues. In their way they saw many fig-trees, produced by the earth without cultivation, and at night came to a village that had been left by its inhabitants. When they had almost unloaded their baggage, they were told that the country was rendered desolate

folate by the plague. The Ambassadors therefore had a tent pitched for them in the field ; but some of the retinue took up their lodgings in one of the houses, where they made a large fire, and to chase away melancholy, drank freely of the wine they had brought along with them. The rest of the people, who did not chuse to venture into the village, were forced to be contented 'till, by the Mehemander's care, some *Tartarian* huts were set up for them, which was not done 'till late at night.

The next day they were obliged to travel ten leagues without baiting, on a continual trot, and in cold, windy and snowy weather, on account of those parts abounding with a poisonous kind of wormwood which kills all the cattle that eat of it. By the way they met a *Persian* well mounted, who was to be their Mehemander and to conduct them to court. Their lodgings that night made them some amends for the fatigue of the day ; for they took up their quarters at the village of *Tzanlu*, which is surrounded with fruit-trees and pleasant gardens.

On the 8th they travelled along the mountain of *Txizetlu*, and the next day, being *Easter Sunday*, spent it as a day of refreshment, when they were complimented by their new Mehemander, who brought them a present of dried fish, fruit, and *Schiras* wine, which is the best that grows in *Persia*.

On the 10th of *April*, being *Easter Monday*, they made their entry into *Ardebil*. First a troop of horsemen saluted them, and then returned to the city. The Calenter of *Ardebil*, a person

in years, afterwards met them near the village of *Kelboran*, which from its many steeples and towers built of stone of several colours, they took for the city *Ardebil*. The Calenter, having saluted the Ambassadors, rode by their side. They afterwards passed a spacious plain, through a considerable body of horse and foot which opened to make way for them. Soon after they were met by the Governor of *Ardebil*, at the head of 1000 horse, and after the first compliments were past on both sides, he rode between the Ambassadors. In the van marched two lads covered with sheep-skins of several colours, each of them carrying an orange on the top of a pole, and singing certain verses in praise of *Mahomet*, *Hali* and *Shah Sefi*. These were followed by others, who in a most surprizing manner imitated the singing of nightingales and other birds: The timbrels and hautboys played; some of the people danced; others sung, and others expressed their joy at seeing the Ambassadors by flinging up their caps. Near the city the guards were placed in two files, cloathed in coats of mail, with feathers in their caps, and bows and arrows in their hands. As they approached the city gates, the crowd of people was so great, that it was necessary to force a way through them with bulls pizzles; and within the city, the house tops, windows, steeples and trees were crouded with such as came from all parts to be spectators of their entrance.

The Ambassadors and the gentlemen of their retinue were conducted by the Khan himself through

through a spacious garden into a noble summer house, and treated with a most splendid collation in a very stately gallery, while the rest were entertained below in a tent erected for that purpose. During the collation they had the best music *Persia* could afford, and a dance performed by archers, who held bows and arrows in their hands. After the collation the Ambassadors were conducted to very spacious lodgings in one of the best parts of the city, which formerly belonged to *Sara Chutza*, the Lord High Chancellor of *Persia*.

The next day was brought to the Ambassadors the *thabenick*, which are certain dishes of meat for three meals, sent to all persons of quality that come to *Ardebil*, pursuant to an ancient institution. Thirty-two large dishes, or rather basons, were full of rice of all colours, upon which the boiled and roasted meat were laid with some omelets and pastry, according to the *Persian* fashion. The following day a very plentiful allowance was settled for their kitchen, when the Khan paid them a visit, made them the kindest offers of his service, of which he afterwards gave them real demonstrations. The same day he sent an express to court to notify their arrival at *Ardebil*; but this express did not return 'till two months after.

On the 25th of *April*, which is the Great Bairam, or festival called *Kurban*, in remembrance of the sacrifice *Abraham* was going to make of his son, they kill a sheep or lamb before break of day, each at his own door, which

which they cut to pieces, and give them all to the poor, not even saving the skin. This is done in imitation of *Abraham*, who they say reserved nothing of the ram he sacrificed instead of *Ismael*.

On the 27th in the evening the Khan informed the Ambassadors of the news he had received of the meeting of the Janizaries at *Constantinople*, and their killing the Grand Signior. This occasioned great rejoicings among the *Persians*, who made fire-works, and diverted themselves with music. The Ambassadors followed their example, causing the trumpets to be sounded, and the drums to beat, and discharged all their great guns six times successively, at which the Khan was so pleased, that he sent them two flag-gons full of *Schiras* wine, and a large glass vessel full of candied sugar.

On the 14th of *May* the Ambassadors were visited by *Saru Taggi*, the Chancellor of *Persia's* son, who with some other persons of quality, came for this purpose from *Ispahan*, and were entertained with a very fine collation, and the discharge of their great guns.

On the 14th of *May* the *Persians* celebrated the feast called *Ashur* or *Ten*, from its lasting ten days. It is kept in memory of the death of *Hossein* the youngest son of *Hali*, and is peculiar to the *Persians*. They say he was killed in the war against the Kaliph *Jesid*, and after receiving 72 wounds with arrows, was run through the body with a sword. It lasts ten days, from his being so long pursued by his enemies before they could overtake him. During which the *Persians*

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show all the signs of affliction. They appear in mourning. suffer their beards to grow, though at other times they shave every day, and drink only water. Nothing was now to be seen throughout the city of *Ardebil*; but an aukward kind of devotion; the boys running in troops about the streets with banners, on the extremities of which were wound snakes of pasteboard, and when they came to the doors of the mosques, they cried *Ja Houssein, Ja Houssein, O Houssein, O Houssein*. After sun-set, especially on the three last days, they met in tents without the city, with lanthorns, torches, and oranges on the top of their poles, crying *Ja Houssein* for an hour together. They then returned in procession with banners and torches through the principal streets of the city, and in the morning of the 10th day, a solemn oration was made in honour of *Houssein*, in the court of *Shah Sefi*, where a banner was planted, said to be made by the daughter of *Fatima*, the daughter of *Mahomet*; and the *Persians* positively affirm, that this banner shakes as often as the name of *Houssein* is mentioned in the oration.

The Ambassadors being invited by the Khan to see the conclusion of this feast, they went to his palace, when he, meeting them at the outer gate, assigned them a place in the court, where seats were erected for them and their retinue, covered with rich tapestry; and upon a cloth before them spread on the ground, were set several vessels of porcelain filled with sugared and perfumed waters, and several brass can-

candlesticks four feet high, in which were large wax candles. There were also lamps filled with rags dipped in suet and naphtha. Round the walls of the court were 1000 lamps, which cast so great a light, that the whole palace seemed in a flame, and this was still increased by the light of many paper lanthorns fastened to cords drawn across the court. The principal persons of the five wards, into which the city of *Ardebil* is divided, appeared each in order, and presented the Khan with a serenade, in which were sung verses composed by some of their poets, (of whom there are great numbers in *Persia*) in praise of *Hali* and *Hossein*; in return for which he presented them with some sweet waters, and before they retired, they wished the Ambassadors success in their intended negotiation. Mean while seven naked boys, who had rubbed their body with suet and naphtha, and some with vermilion, to represent the blood of *Hossein*, danced with little stones in their hands, which they struck against each other, and smote their breasts with them; to express their sorrow for the death of *Hossein*; after which the Khan entertained the Ambassadors with some excellent fire-works.

The next day before sun-rising, the *Persians* appeared again in procession, to represent the interment of *Hossein*, carrying many banners, and leading some fine horses and camels covered with blue cloth, in which were quilted abundance of arrows, as if they had been shot into it, to represent those shot at *Hossein*. Upon some of these horses were mounted boys with empty

empty coffins before them, covered with a little hay or straw. These represented *Hossein's* children. Others of the horses carried turbants, scymeters, bows, and quivers of arrows. Immediately after the sun rose, there appeared in the lower court a great number of men and boys, when the first letting themselves blood in their arms, such a quantity was spilt, that the court seemed as if several oxen had been slaughtered there. Mean while the boys flashed themselves above the elbow, and striking their wounds with their hands, made the blood spirt all over their bodies. In this manner they ran through all the streets, in commemoration of the effusion of *Hossein's* blood; fully persuaded, that they by this means expiated their sins, and that if they died during this feast, they would certainly be saved. They have the same opinion of the feast of *Hali*, and of their Lent.

The city of *Ardebil*, called *Ardvil* by the *Turks*, is situated in the province of *Adirbeitzan*, the *Media Major* of the Ancients, and is one of the most celebrated cities of the *Persian* Empire. It is seated in the midst of a spacious plain, surrounded on all sides with mountains like an amphitheatre. These mountains occasion the weather to change continually, from the extremity of heat to that of cold, which renders this city very subject to epidemical diseases, especially in *August*, when they begin to be sensible of the inconveniences of autumn; and it is observable, that every day about noon, when the heat is most excessive, there arises a whirlwind that raises a great dust, but does

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not last above an hour; however, for the rest of the day, and during the night, the weather is generally calm. From this situation, the ground about the city produces neither vines, melons, citrons, oranges, nor pomegranates, though they have here apples, pears and peaches in great plenty. But the air is more temperate at the foot of the mountains. The above plain is so fertile, that it maintains above 60 villages round the city, and affords pasture for large flocks, which belong to the *Turkish* and *Arabia* shepherds.

Though *Ardebil* is much larger than *Scamathie*, it is without walls; but as each house in the city has its garden planted with fruit-trees, it affords a pleasant prospect at a distance. At the village of *Scamafbu* rises a small river, which soon after dividing into two branches, one passes through the city, and the other encompasses it, and afterwards re uniting their streams, they fall into the river *Karafa*. But this river is apt to overflow in the spring, when the snow begins to melt so fast upon the adjacent mountains, that if the inhabitants did not take care to divert the current, by making trenches in the plain, the whole city would be drowned.

Ardebil has five capital streets, planted with elms and other trees, which afford a very agreeable shade. The market-place is 300 paces long and 150 broad, having shops on all sides, and each trade its peculiar quarter. Near the market is a mosque, where lies interred *Iman Sade*, one of the children of their twelve saints, which for a certain time serves as a sanctuary

for criminals, whence they retire to the sepulchre of *Sefi*, their great sanctuary, which stands very near it. On the side of the market-place is a handsome arched square building, appointed for the sale of the most precious commodities, as gold and silver brocades, rich silks, and precious stones. This edifice has three gates, each of which leads into a street well furnished with shops, and covered over head. In these streets are also several caravanseras, or storehouses for the *Turks*, *Tartars*, *Indians*, and other foreign merchants. Among the rest, our Author saw there two *Chinese*, who sold porcelain and japanned works. This city is also well furnished with public baths, and has many metzids or mosques, the chief of which, called Metzid *Adine*, is built upon a hill in the middle of the city; it has a very handsome steeple, and at its entrance is a fountain, the water of which a late Chancellor of *Persia* caused to be conveyed thither by pipes, from a mountain at a league distance.

On *Whitsun-Monday* the Khan sent to let the Ambassadors know, that if they were desirous of seeing Shah *Sefi's* sepulchre, he would go with them thither; but that they must abstain from wine all that day, and that their supper should be provided out of Shah *Sefi's* kitchen. The Ambassadors gladly agreed to this proposal, and going thither with all their retinue, were conducted into a spacious court paved with broad stones, and furnished on both sides with shops vaulted over. The gate which leads into this court is very large, and

had above it a great silver chain, at which hung another perpendicularly in the middle. From hence the Khan conducted them to another gate, which had a chain of the same kind, and here they were obliged to deliver their arms; it being a capital crime for a *Persian* who passed it, to have even a knife about him. The threshold of this, as well as all the following gates, were round, and of white marble, and as the *Persians* are used to kiss it, they were desired not to touch it with their feet, but to step over it with their right foot foremost. The court they now entered was as long, though not so broad as the first, but it was paved in the same manner, and provided with vaulted shops on both sides. At the upper end to the right hand, was a large vault, hung with tapestry, and paved at the entrance with green and blue stones. In the middle stood two large brass candlesticks, with lights in them, and along the walls sat several Priests cloathed in white, singing with a loud voice, and with a most regular motion, waving all together from one side to the other. They were thence conducted through a third gate, with a silver chain over it, into a court that was less than the former, and paved with small square stones of several colours. The gate by which they entered into the place of the sepulchre, was built like a great tower, adorned with silver plates and rings of the same metal. The pavement at the entrance, which opened into a large edifice, was covered with tapestry, and they were desired to pull off their shoes, which

The Ambassadors having with much reluctance complied with, they passed into a very large gallery, covered with carpets, and hung with tapestry; and then passing through another gate, covered with plates of gold, entered into a magnificent vault four fathoms square, enlightened by a great number of gold and silver lamps, some of which were three feet in diameter. On the sides sat twelve Priests with parchment books laid before them upon desks, containing in *Arabic* characters, some chapters of the Koran, which they sung, with the same waving motion from side to side, as the others already mentioned. This vault was divided from another only by silver rails, and an ascent of three silver steps. The Khan and the Ambassadors Interpreter having kissed these steps, conducted the Ambassadors' into it, who only took with them four of their retinue. This vault was much richer than any of the rest: at one end of it was a place raised about a foot from the ground, and fenced in with rails of massy gold, behind which was the sepulchre of Shah *Sefi*, made not of gold, as some have endeavoured to persuade the world, but of white marble covered with crimson velvet, and raised three feet above the ground; it was nine feet in length, and four in breadth; and from the roof hung several gold and silver lamps, and on both sides were two very large candlesticks of massy gold, with wax-candles. The Ambassadors were very desirous of having the golden rail unlocked; but were told that no Turk, nor even the Sophi himself, was permitted

to enter it. On the left hand of the same apartment they discovered a vault, in which were the tomb of Shah *Ismael's*, that of Shah *Sefi's* wife, and those of some other of the Queens of *Persia*; but they were not allowed to look into them: they, however, discovered through the meeting of the curtains, which were drawn at the entrance, that there was nothing remarkable to be seen. As they went along they were followed by a grave old man who purified all the places through which they passed with incense.

They were then conducted through a gallery arched over, and adorned with gildings; but without any pillars, though it was as spacious as a large church. This was a *Persian* library consisting of manuscripts, some of which were wrote upon parchment, and others upon paper; most of them in *Arabic*, and the rest in the *Turkish* and *Persian* tongues, all of them excellently painted, richly bound, and covered with plates of gold and silver, particularly the historians, whose works were embellished with several representations in colours; but they were shuffled together in drawers without any order. In several niches on the sides, stood above 400 porcelain vessels, some of which were big enough to hold ten gallons.

They were then conducted to the kitchen, the doors of which were also covered with silver plates, and here every thing was disposed in the most admirable order; for the water was conveyed by many pipes to every part of it, and each cook had his peculiar office assigned him.

him. Here 1000 persons are provided for every day, including them belonging to the house; and three times a day the poor have pottage, rice, and meat distributed among them. While these distributions are made, they sound two timbrels, said to have been brought by *Sedreain* from *Medina*, with the banner of *Fa-ima*.

From the kitchen they passed through a very handsome garden, in which were the sepulchres of Sultan *Aider*, Shah *Tamas*, and several other Kings of *Persia*, without any other covering but a smooth stone. This edifice has been augmented by many of the Kings of *Persia*, so that it now represents a very noble and large castle, and there daily resort to it a prodigious concourse of people, who come thither for the sake of conversation. The vast revenues annexed to it by several of the *Persian* Kings have so increased its wealth, that it is supposed, in case of necessity, to be able to maintain a good army. Here also many charities are bestowed, and the pilgrims are furnished with certain certificates, which, upon many occasions, serve as protections.

In the same village is another tomb, built in the midst of a handsome garden, in memory of *Seid Tzeibrail*, the father of Shah *Sefi*, who was only a peasant. It is round, and raised ten steps high: it is adorned with glass of several colours, and surrounded with iron grates. In the middle of its roof, which is of azure gilt, is a large tower of blue and green stones; the floor is covered with very rich tapestry, and round the walls are small

small vaults, in which children are educated and fitted for the service of the sepulchre. The tomb itself is about six feet high, made of joiner's work. It is covered with green velvet, and over it hang two golden, and as many silver lamps, that are lighted every night. Opposite to it is a small chapel, which contains the tombs of Shah Seff family.



C H A P. VIII.

They leave Ardebil, and travel to Sulthania. That City, with its Mesques, described. They thence proceed to Caswin, and from thence to Kom and Katschan, with a Description of those Cities, and of the Scorpions and Spiders of Katschan; and continuing their Travels, they approach the City of Ispahan.

TH O' a messenger arrived from the Sophi of Persia to conduct them to Ispahan, yet eight days elapsed before they set out on their journey; because the Ambassador Brugman was resolved to take the cannon along with him. At last, having made their former Mahemander a present of four pair of sables, and several ells of cloth and sattins, they took leave of the Khan, who made the Ambassadors a present of a very fine horse, a bridle and saddle for each, with two pieces of sattin, and one of gold and silver brocade, in return for those he had received from

the

the Ambassadors, which consisted of a clock, two pictures, a quantity of Rosa Solis, and three pair of the finest sables. On the 11th of June their baggage being sent away upon 160 horses and twelve camels, they followed it the next day, and having proceeded a league from the city, were met by the Khan of *Ardebil*, in company with the Sultan of *Tabris*, who conducted them into some of the huts of the *Tartarian* shepherds; and after a collation of cold meats, fruits and preserves, took their last leave of the Ambassadors; the *Persians* never conducting those out of their houses, whom they have entertained in them.

All that day they travelled over craggy mountains, 'till they reached the village of *Busum*, four leagues from *Ardebil*; they there overtook their baggage and artillery, but were forced to leave six of their largest pieces behind them, their carriages being broken in passing the mountains.

The next day they passed through valleys, in which were many villages and fertile meadows stocked with cattle; but on the 14th, again passed over high mountains for four leagues together; and on the 15th, travelled through a bottom at the foot of mount *Tauris*, by the *Persians* called *Perdelis*. This is a pleasant valley, stocked with wild almond, cypress, and senna-trees; but lying between two mountains, is very dangerous, on account of the many robberies committed there by the wretches who, from the mountains, discover passengers at a distance. Here they crossed a river over

a bridge of bricks of nine arches. Soon after they came to the ascent of the mountain, which was very steep, and winded to the top, where nothing was to be seen but the most dreadful precipices, that made it necessary for them to lead their horses. To add to their misfortune they had no sooner surmounted these difficulties and gotten to the top, than they lost their way in the dark, which was occasioned by the Mahemander's staying behind. This he afterwards excused, by alledging, that he was unable to bear the opprobrious expressions which incessantly fell from the Ambassador *Brugman*; but would take care that they should be supplied with all necessaries, which he punctually performed. They rambled about for three hours, and about midnight got to a village, where they staid all the next day to refresh both themselves and their horses.

On the 17th, they came to the village of *Hatzimir*, situated among inaccessible rocks, and the next day passing between two very steep hills, they came about midnight to a village called *Kamabl*. A large unfurnished house had been taken for the Ambassadors at the entrance of the village; but finding it destitute of conveniences, they refused to lodge there, and having placed two of their guards at each of the avenues which led to the village, to give notice to the rest of the retinue, took up their lodgings, while those, who were already arrived, prepared to follow their example. The country people, however, surprized at their unexpected appearance, were unable so suddenly

menly to remove their wives and children, and denied them entrance; but the retinue, half dead with cold and fatigue, entered the houses by force, and took up their quarters in several houses scattered up and down on three hills. They were, however, hardly in bed, when the trumpet sounding to horse, obliged them to rise, and haste to the Ambassadors' lodging, where they were informed, that twenty *Persian* horsemen, had set upon and disarmed the guard at the avenues. A lieutenant with twenty musqueteers, were now ordered out to clear the highways, and all the retinue were lodged as near the Ambassadors as possible. Notwithstanding this, they staid there the next day, when they caused tents to be pitched; and on the 20th, setting out early in the morning, arrived at the city of *Senkan*, which is without walls, and situated in a barren and sandy soil.

On the 21st of *January* they continued their journey by the light of the moon over a large plain six leagues in length, at the farther end of which is the city of *Sulthania*, where they arrived by sun-rising; but the coldness of the night threw fifteen persons of their retinue into a fever. This city, which has an high mountain on its side, has some very magnificent structures, and a great number of steeples. There still subsists such remains of its former grandeur, as shew that it was once one of the noblest cities in *Persia*. It was built by Sultan *Mahomet Chodabende*, and there are still to be seen the noble ruins of the royal palace or rather

rather castle, the walls of which are built of free-stone strengthened with many quadrangular towers; but, what exceeds all the rest is the mosque, which contains the sepulchre of that Prince, and has three gates that are much higher than those of St. Mark's church at Venice, and are of the finest polished steel. The Persians confidently affirm, that the largest of these three gates, which faces the market-place, cannot be opened by twenty of the strongest men, unless they pronounce *Beask Ali Buhsha*; that is, *Be opened for Ali's sake*, and that on pronouncing these words it may be opened by a child. The roof of this mosque, which grows narrow by degrees towards the top, is formed of white and blue stones, on which are figures and characters well executed. Chodabende's tomb, which is at the end of the mosque, is parted from the rest by brass rails, and surrounded with a grate of polished Indian steel of most curious workmanship. Within the brass rails our Author observed several books above half an ell square, written in Arabic characters of the length of a man's finger, with black and gold lines alternately; he even procured some leaves of them, which contain a paraphrase upon the Koran called *The Candle of the Heart*, and these are to be seen in the Duke of Holstein's library. The tower belonging to the mosque was built in the form of an octagon, encompassed with a gallery which had eight lesser towers. At the entrance of the mosque was a square fountain supplied with water

water out of one of the neighbouring mountains.

Another famous mosque in this city was founded by Shah *Ismael*, and has a round tower over its gate, and within the court a noble pyramid surrounded by eight fine marble pillars. This last mosque is high and well arched. The roof is supported by a great number of pillars, with convenient galleries, and a rich pulpit in the midst; and near this mosque are the ruins of a triumphal arch of freestone, resting upon two pillars 20 fathoms high.

Having staid three days at *Sulthania*, they continued their journey, their sick being placed in a kind of chest, carried upon camels; and proceeding forward the two following days, they came within sight of the city of *Caswin* or *Casban*. The *Daruga*, or Judge, who commanded there in chief, met them without the city gates, accompanied by five or six hundred persons, horse and foot; they also received the same honour from an Indian Prince, who came attended by some of his own countrymen on horseback, and a considerable number of pages and footmen, who followed the chariot in which he and another person sat, drawn by two white oxen with very short necks, and a bunch between their shoulders. The charioteer sat upon the chariot, the wheels of which rested and turned upon an iron bar, crooked in the middle. These oxen he managed as dexterously as we do our horses, the pole being fastened to their horns by a cord that was also drawn through their nostrils. Among the rest there appeared in the field

fifteen

young ladies very magnificently dressed, and mounted on very fine horses ; they were adorned with very valuable pearl necklaces, pendants, and other jewels, and as, contrary to the *Persian* custom, they appeared barefaced, it was soon found that they were some of the most eminent courtezans of the city, They entertained the Ambassadors with hautboys and a kind of bagpipes, and accompanied them to their lodgings, though they were quite at the other end of the city.

Caswin, called *Arfatia* by the ancients, is one of the principal cities of the province of *Erak*, the ancient *Parthia*. It is situated in a sandy plain, is about a *German* league in circumference, and contains 100,000 inhabitants ; but is without fortifications or a garrison ; and it is very remarkable that the people here speak a dialect as different from the *Persian* tongue, as the *Dutch* is from the *German*. Their houses are of brick, without any ornaments on the outside, but are well furnished within. The water is conveyed through pipes from a mountain at a considerable distance ; but the streets are very dusty from their not being paved. They have vaults wherein they have snow and ice to cool their liquors, and to which they retire to shelter themselves from the heat of the summer.

This city was the seat of the *Persian* Kings, 'till Shah *Tamas*, or as some say, Shah *Ismael*, transferred it from thence to *Tauris* ; he was also the founder of a royal palace, which he built near the market-place, with a very hand.

and some garden behind it. Opposite to the palace
is also a most delightful garden half a league
in compass, adorned with a great number of
fruit trees and spacious walks of cypress. The
horse market has on the south side several mag-
nificent structures: both this and the other mar-
ket are full of shops and storehouses, where
vast quantities of merchandise, and among the
best rubies, granates, and turquoises are sold
very cheap. In the former of these markets,
after the shops are shut, a great number of pro-
stitutes sit in a row with their faces covered
with veils, the bawds standing behind them
with an unlighted candle, which she lights as
soon as any person appears to cheapen her ware,
and if, after they have looked upon several, a
bargain is made, they follow her to a place
proper for their purpose. This city has also
about fifty mosques, several caravanferas for
the accommodation of foreign merchants, and
many public baths.

On the 2d. of July the chief Judge of the city
gave the Ambassadors an entertainment of
vaulting and wrestling under tents pitched for
that purpose in the market-place, and these ex-
ercises, which were performed with surprizing
activity, were followed by a battle between
two rams, and the fighting of two birds not
much larger than common parrots, who fought
with extraordinary animosity; and the shew was
concluded with their bringing in eight very
large wolves, which, being fastened with ropes,
were several times let out among the common

people who stood in a circle, but were drawn back without their doing any harm.

On the 13th of *June* they left *Caswin* in the night, and on the 14th travelled through a plain three leagues in extent to the village of *Membr*, the houses of which appeared at a distance like ovens, from their being vaulted at the top. They from thence continued their journey the next night, and early on the 15th came to the village of *Araseng*, where they refreshed themselves with pomegranates and almonds.

On the 16th in the morning they took their lodgings at a caravansera called *Chosken*, built of freestone, with many chambers and vaults round a spacious court, in the midst of which was a well, surrounded with iron railings. And travelling again at night they came within sight of *Saba*, a city seated in a spacious plain, the soil of which is very barren, but though the city is of no great extent, and though the houses are very ruinous, and the walls are only of earth, yet its many towers and some public structures, gave it a fine appearance at a distance. Here, however, the most excellent fruits are found, especially pomegranates and almonds, which the gardens produce in great abundance, and at the foot of the neighbouring mountains there grows such a quantity of cotton and rice, that the inhabitants carry on a considerable trade in these articles.

On the morning of the 19th they came before the city of *Kom*, where they were received by the *Daruga* or chief Magistrate, at the head of 50 gentlemen on horseback, under the sound of

timbrels, hautboys, and fifes, while several tumblers, who made use of stilts, shewed feats of activity. The city of *Kom*, called by *Promy*, *Guriana*, is situated near mount *Elwend*, and the ruins of its walls shew it to have been formerly of a much larger extent than it is at present. A small river which rises from two springs out of the same mountain, that unite their streams near the city, passes through a part of it, and it is of a considerable advantage to the trade of the inhabitants, though it frequently occasions great damage; for three years before it had overflowed its banks by the sudden melting of the snow, and the current carried away above 1000 houses. The gardens, of which there are a great number, produce a variety of excellent fruits, and among the rest a kind of melons of the bigness of an orange, of an admirable scent, and extremely delicious. There are also cucumbers two feet long, of the thickness of a man's arm, which the *Persians* pickle with vinegar. The grounds about the city produce all sorts of grain and cotton; but the chief trade of the city consists in sword blades, which are accounted the best in all *Persia*, and in earthen ware, that is greatly esteemed.

They left *Kom* on the 21st of *June* after sunset, and the next day staid at a large village called *Kasmabath*, where they observed all the houses of a whole street built in the manner of the continued arch or vault.

After travelling the two following nights, they came early to *Katschan*, where they halted

till the Daruga could get ready to receive them, which he did without the city, at the head of a company of 50 gentlemen on horseback, with several fine led horses covered with lion's skins, and at their entrance into the city, they saw two black *Indian* oxen of vast bulk with bells about their necks, and plumes of feathers on their heads and cruppers.

The city of *Katschan* lies in 33 degrees 51 minutes north latitude, and is situated in a large fertile plain. This city may be placed among those of the first rank in *Persia*, it being not only very populous but famous for the concourse of foreign merchants, especially of the *Indians*, who have a peculiar quarter assigned them. The walls and bastions are of a kind of potter's clay. Their private houses are generally well built, and their public structures, as their storehouses and caravanseras excel what is to be seen in most other cities in *Persia*. The adjacent fields are so fruitful in grain, wine, and fruit, that even those who are the poorest do not want some delicacies: their greatest want is fresh water; for they have none but what is muddy and ill tasted, though they are forced to dig for it very deep. The *Sophi's* garden, which is near the city, has a summer palace in the midst of it that is said to have a thousand doors and windows, comprehending those that lead into the galleries and balconies, and here his Majesty resides, when he comes to *Katschan*.

The country about *Katschan* abounds more in venomous creatures, than any other part of *Persia*; which has given birth to the *Persian* curse

curse, *May the Scorpion of Katschan pinch thee by the hand.* These creatures are very black, of the length of a man's finger, and not unlike a crab-fish; but are somewhat shorter and walk faster, with their tails always sticking up. Their bite seldom proves mortal. The remedy used against it is only a piece of copper money placed upon the wound, which being taken off in 24 hours time, they then apply a plaster of honey and vinegar.

They have also a spider whose body is spotted, and about two inches round. This insect feeds on an herb like our wormwood, except its leaves being somewhat larger leaves, and a stronger scent. It does not emit its poison by stinging or biting; but by letting it fall like a drop of water. It occasions an insupportable pain in the part where it fastens, and soon after the patient falls into a profound sleep, from which he is scarcely to be awaked without applying one of the same spiders crushed upon the wound. But if none of these are not to be found, they lay the patient upon his back, and pouring as much milk down his throat as they possibly can, place him upon a bier fastened with cords to a beam; then turning the bier till the cords are twisted, they suddenly whirl it back, which occasions a violent agitation that forces the stomach to discharge itself of the milk, which appears of a greenish colour, as does also a matter which with excessive pain issues from the penis. But those who are cured in this manner commonly feel some remains of the pain as long as they live, at the return of the same season of the

year. But though this animal is so fatal, the sheep are greedy after it and feed on it without danger.

They left *Kaschan* on the 26th of July at night, and proceeding six leagues, pitched their tents in a garden near a pleasant rivulet. The next night they proceeded through barren grounds, and early the next morning took up their lodgings in a very convenient caravan-serai in the little city of *Natens*, where they observed two high peaked mountains, upon one of which stood a large tower said to be built by *Shah Abbas*, in memory of one of his falcons, who there killed an eagle. Mr *Mandesto*, having the curiosity to take a view of it, found it built of brick of an octogonal form, and eight paces in diameter at the bottom, but grew narrower as it approached the top, where it had many windows on all sides to let in the light. It is surprizing how they could be able to convey the materials to the top of so high a mountain, which cost Mr. *Mandesto* three hours hard labour to ascend, and as many to come down.



C H A P. IX.

The Ambassadors enter Ispahan, and are entertained out of the King's Kitchen. A Quarrel between the Ambassadors' Servants and those of the Ambassador from the Great Mogul. Their first Audience of the Sophi, with the Manner in which they were entertained. They are invited by some Augustine Monks to the Festival of St. Augustine. Are entertained by the Governor of Armenia, and afterwards by the English. A Description of the Marriage of an Armenian, with the Manner of their receiving the Eucharist, and the Baptism of an Infant. A Swiss bravely suffers Death rather than forsake the reformed Religion. A curious Account of a hunting Match, to which the Ambassadors were invited by the Sophi, and which lasted several Days. The Manner in which the Sophi's Women travel. The Ambassadors are entertained by the Lord Chancellor, after which they receive a Present from the Sophi, of whom they take their Leave in order to return to Germany.

HAVING continued their travels for several days without meeting with any thing extraordinary, they, on the third of August, were met at about a quarter of a league from Ispahan by one of the chief officers of the court, at the head of 300 horsemen, and soon after by two considerable

considerable *Armenian* Lords, who accompanied the Ambassadors to their lodgings, while the streets and even the tops of the houses were crowded with people, though the dust raised by their horses was so thick that it was impossible to discern them at a distance. They were lodged in the quarter assigned to the chief *Armenians*, and were no sooner alighted than provisions were brought them from the Sophi's kitchen. The table-cloth laid on the floor in the Ambassador's room was of fine silk, upon which were set thirty silver dishes full of liquid and dry preserves, and many kinds of fruit, as melons, citrons, quinces, pears, and some others not commonly known in *Europe*. Then the cloth being taken away, and another put in its room, the second course was brought in, consisting of fifty silver dishes with rice of all colours, boiled and roasted mutton, tame fowl, fish, eggs, pies, and fallads.

But scarce had they begun to indulge the joy they had conceived on their arrival at the *Persian* court, than it was interrupted by a quarrel which arose between a servant belonging to their Mahemander, and a domestic of an *Indian* Ambassador sent thither by the Great Mogul, who with a retinue of 300 persons lodged at a small distance from them. One of his domestics standing by while the *Germans* were unloading their baggage, the Mahemander's servant, whose name was *Wellichan*, told him in jest, that it would shew more good nature, for him to come and help them, than to stand thus unemployed. To this returning an insolent answer, the *Persian*

Jan struck him with his cane, when the *Indian*,
 incensed at the affront, ran to some of his com-
 rades, who were lying under the shade of a tree,
 and told them his tale, on which instantly rising
 and throwing stones, *Wellichan* was wounded in
 the head; but the Ambassadors domestics and
 soldiers, soon charging the *Indians*, killed one
 of them, and pursued the rest to their quarters.
 At this the *Indians* were so greatly exasperated,
 that a few days after, when the *Germans* were
 removing some of their baggage, in order to
 send it to another lodging they had provided
 in the city, some of the *Indians* set upon a foot-
 man belonging to their steward killed him, cut
 off his head, and tied his body to a horse's
 tail. This no sooner came to the knowledge of
 the Ambassadors, than they ordered their do-
 mestics who lay scattered up and down in the
 suburbs, to repair to their lodgings; but before
 they could obey this order, the *Indians* pos-
 sessed themselves of all the avenues leading thi-
 ther, so that the men were forced to fight their
 way through them, in which attempt several
 were mortally wounded, though they all at last
 got to the Ambassador's house, which being
 at the corner of a narrow street, they there galled
 the *Indians* with their firelocks. The *Indians*
 however, retreating behind a wall, made holes
 in it, through which they discharged their
 arrows: these did execution among the Amba-
 ssadors servants and soldiers, who unwarily ex-
 posed themselves. One of the *German* gunners
 was thus killed while he was levelling a piece of
 cannon against them; upon which one *Murray*;

Murray, a Scotch serjeant, being eager to revenge his death, snatched up a firelock, and fired upon the *Indians* with such success, that he slew five or six of them, 'till an arrow being shot into his breast, he pluck'd it out, and having killed another with his firelock, fell down dead upon the spot. The number of the *Indians* increasing, it was thought proper to retreat into the outward court; but the *Indians*, breaking into the next adjacent house, so severely galled them from thence, that they were forced to get on the top of the Ambassadors house, where they did great execution among the *Indians*, their leader being killed by Mr. Mandeslo with a pistol-shot; but as this loss rather increased than abated their fury, the Ambassadors began to become doubtful of the event, and therefore ordered some adjoining walls belonging to the *Armenians* to be broke down, in order to secure their retreat. But they no sooner began to retire, than the *Indians* closely pursued them; and though the *Armenians*, who were spectators of the combat, wished them well, they did not dare to stir in their behalf. But just at this instant they were happily relieved; for the Sophi having received notice of the tumult, immediately sent an Officer with 100 chosen men to their relief, who being joined by some of the inhabitants, were no sooner discovered by the *Indians*, than they dispersed, and the Sophi being informed of the true occasion, would have had the *Indian* Ambassador's hands cut off, had he not been diverted from this design by the Chancellor.

However,

However, he was a few days after ordered to depart the kingdom. In this engagement, which lasted four hours, the Duke of *Holstein's* Ambassadors lost five men, and had ten wounded, while the *Indians* had 24 killed.

The day after the tumult, they resolved to change their lodgings, when the Sophi of *Persia* not only forbid all the *Indians*, and even the merchants themselves, who amounted to 12,000, to appear that day in the streets upon pain of death; but also ordered some of his guards to attend them, and allowed them to fortify the weakest part of their quarters.

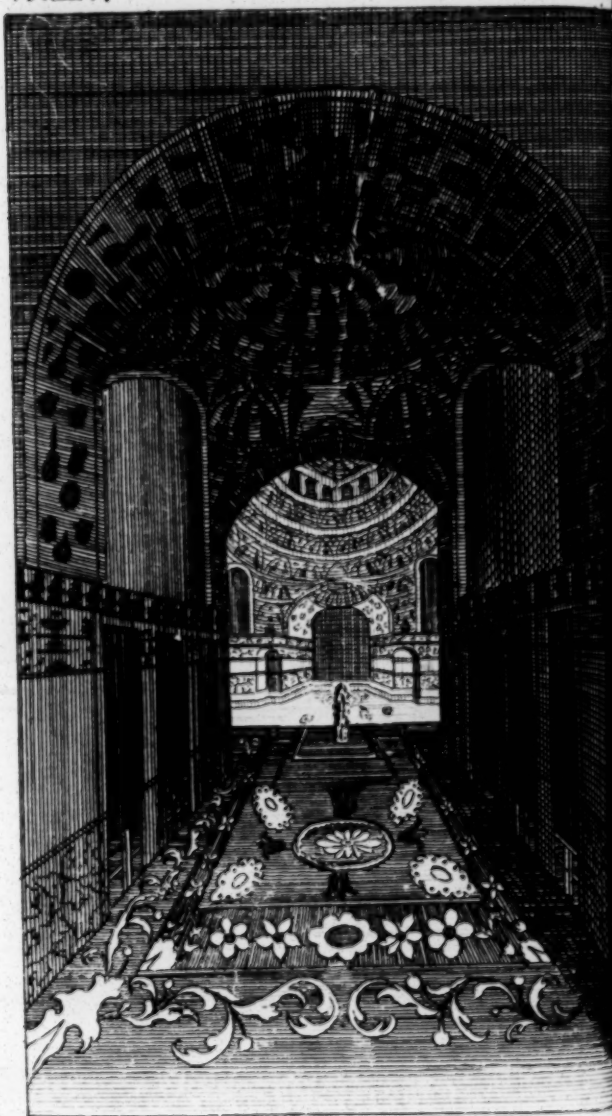
Their daily allowance, during their stay at *Isfahan*, was by the Sophi's order 150 sheep, 100 fowls of all sorts, 200 eggs, and 100 batmans of wine, with as much fruit and spice as they were able to consume; but great part of it being disposed of by the Ambassador *Brugman* for other uses, and sometimes upon his women, the people had often not above one meal a day, and on some days the cloth was not laid at all for the servants.

The 16th of *August* being appointed for their audience, the Ambassadors were invited to dine with the Sophi, and forty very fine horses, with rich saddles and harnesses, adorned with large plates of gold, being brought for the use of the Ambassadors and the gentlemen of the retinue, they proceeded in the following order: First, three on horseback, two in complete armour, richly adorned with gold flowers, the other only with breast, back, and head-pieces; these were followed by 40 persons, each

each with a case of fine pistols in embroidered holsters. Next came four men, carrying two very rich scymeters in rich cases, with the sheaths of yellow amber, garnished with gold. After these appeared two men with staves with fine amber heads; amber being esteemed by the *Persians* more than gold. Then came four men, each with a large candlestick of amber and two others carrying a cabinet of white and yellow amber, followed by four persons carrying a cabinet of ebony, inlaid with silver, in which were gold boxes, containing several drugs, essences, and other chymical preparations, set on the outside with fine stones. Next followed three serjeants with halberts, at the head of fifteen musqueteers. Then the Steward at the head of the gentlemen, who marched three abreast. Next came three trumpeters with silver trumpets, followed by the guards, four abreast, immediately before the Ambassadors who had on both sides of them eight halberdiers, and were followed by two interpreters. Then came eight pages on horseback, in rich liveries, followed by the rest of the retinue three abreast. But as the *Persians* observe no regularity in their processions, the Ambassadors and their retinue were obliged to march forward as well as they could, accompanied by a great number of *Persian* gentlemen on horseback, through the market-place to the gate of the Sophi's palace, where they were received by the Master of the Ceremonies, and conducted into the Hall of Justice, where they were

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*The Hall in which the Ambassadors
were entertained.*

were desired to rest themselves, till the Sophi should be informed of their coming.

After a stay of half an hour, word was brought by several persons of distinction, that the Sophi expected them; upon which they were introduced through a large court, inclosed on both sides with a double wall, one of which being much lower than the other, was at about six paces distance, built close to a row of tinar trees, and was on both sides well lined with guards, distinguished by plumes of different colours: at the end of this court was the hall appointed for their audience, which was the place where the Sophi keeps his court of justice in person; for this ceremony is performed in *Persia* in any place, where the Sophi is called, either by business or diversions. Under the trees near this hall, were about fifty young horses in their embroidered housings, and some with rich saddles and harnesses; most of them were of a cream colour; they were brought thither to be back'd, and were watered out ofails vermillion gilt. This hall had a partition in the nature of an alcove, with a red callico curtain before it, which when drawn up by a silk string, rested upon the capitals of some wooden pillars, finely carved with branch-work, and gilt, as were also the walls, on which were hung some *European* pictures. In the middle of the hall was a fountain, in the basin of which were flowers, oranges, apples, and other fruits, swimming upon the water; and round its sides a great number of flaggons, and other vessels of gold and silver. The whole

floor of the hall was covered with a carpet, the ground work of which was also of gold and silver.

The Sophi, who was about 27 years of age, sat upon a fatten cushion, laid on the carpet behind the fountain, with his back to the wall. He had a very graceful aspect, and like most of the *Persians*, had a *Roman* nose. His habit, which was of brocade, was not distinguished from that of the rest, only he had a plume of heron feathers on his head, fastened with a very fine bracelet of diamonds. Over his upper garment hung two sable skins down from his neck, which were also worn by some *Persian* Lords; the scymeter he wore by his side was set with precious stones, and behind him lay his bow and arrows. On his right hand 20 pages attended, who were the sons of his Khans, among whom were some eunuchs; one of the handsomest of them was employed in fanning the Sophi. At the head of these pages stood the Meheter or Groom of the chamber, who was their Governor. Before the Sophi, stood *Elshick Agasi Baschi*, or Lord Chamberlain, with a staff covered with gold, on the top of which was a nob of the same metal. On his left side sat the *Ethomad Dowlet*, or Chancellor, and next to him the Khans and other Lords. At the entrance of the hall, on the left hand were placed an *Arabian* Ambassador, and the *Moscovite* Envoy, and below them the King's musicians.

The Ambassadors were met at the door of the hall by several persons of great distinction

who took them under the arms, and held them so fast, that they had not the use of them. This ceremony, which is looked upon as a peculiar honour, was probably first introduced by the *Persians* and *Turks*, to secure their Sovereigns from any attempts from the Ambassadors of foreign Princes. As they approached the Sophi they made a low bow, which he returned with a smiling countenance, and a small inclination of his head. They were then desired to sit down upon low seats, placed for them near the Lords: fifteen of their retainers were placed a little more to the left upon the ground, while the pages, and the rest of the train, were entertained in a court below, with thirteen women dancers richly dressed, the handsomest courtezans of *Ispahan*, who, besides their annual tribute, are obliged to attend the court whenever they are called for.

The Ambassadors having rested a short time, the Lord Chamberlain asked them in the Sophi's name by whom they were sent, and the occasion of their embassy; when rising, they approached the Sophi to deliver their credentials, with a short compliment, according to the custom of the *Persians*, who being no admirers of set speeches, would have all who approach their Sovereign, shew their reverence by the fewness of their words. The Chancellor receiving the credentials, desired the Ambassadors to return to their seats, and the Secretary of State let them know that the Shah intended to have their credentials translated, and as soon as that was done, would give them a

second audience. The presents were then brought in, and carried close by the Sophi into an adjacent room. Those from the Ambassador Mr. *Crusius*, were an arquebuss, stocked with ebony, which cocked itself: a vessel of rock crystal, edged with gold, and adorned with turquoises and rubies: a cabinet of amber, and a small striking clock. Those of Mr. *Brugman*, were a brass gilt candlestick with 30 branches, having a striking watch within the body: a pair of very fine pistols gilt, with very rich holsters: a watch in a rich case: a bracelet of diamonds and rubies, and a writing by which the two pieces of cannon left an *Ardebil* were presented to the Sophi.

Soon after, a callico cloth being spread over the floor, was covered with gold basons filled with fruit and preserves, and 300 gold flaggons were disposed over the hall, by way of ornament. All this plate was smooth, except the flaggons, and the cup out of which the Sophi himself drank, which were set with rubies and turquoises. They had also plenty of the best *Schiras* wine, and were entertained by a juggler, who performed flight of hand with astonishing dexterity. About an hour after the cloth being removed and another of gold brocade laid in its place, the meat was brought in by ten men in large golden vessels, and the carver having placed himself on the floor in the midst of them, served the meat into lesser dishes, with rice of all colours, upon which he put mutton roasted and boiled, tame and

wild

then wild fowl, &c. and sometimes five or six sorts in a dish. The Sophi being served first, then the Ambassadors, the Lords, and all who were present. During this entertainment, a profound silence was observed, After the dinner had lasted about an hour and a half, the cloth was taken away, and water being brought to wash their hands, the Lord Chamberlain returned thanks with a loud voice in the following manner: *Make us thankful for this repast. Prosper the Sophi's undertakings, and give to his soldiers and servants true courage. This we pray thee O God.* To which the rest answered, *Alla, Alla;* and without speaking a word more, left the room; when the Ambassadors' Mehemander telling them they might withdraw as soon as they pleased, they paid their reverence to the Sophi, and retired.

On the 24th the Ambassadors had their first private audience, and on the 28th, they were invited by the *Augustin* fryars to the festival of *St. Augustin* their patron, which was to be celebrated the next day: and as *Christians* of the most different opinions live among the *Mahometans* like brethren, the *Moscovite* Envoy, an *Armenian* Bishop, and several *English* Merchants were also to be present. There were no more than six monks, all of whom were *Spaniards*, in the whole monastery, which was a neat edifice, that had a church with two steeples, and a handsome garden belonging to it. The Ambassadors being received at the outer gate of the convent, were conducted by the fryars into the church, where mass was immediately begun,

and their musicians, with the assistance of one of the Monks, who played upon the organ, formed a good concert. Mass being over, they were conducted into the garden, near a fountain which stood under a large tree, whose branches being full of leaves, and twisted with one another, afforded a very agreeable shade. About noon they were carried into the hall where they were entertained with fruit in porcelain dishes, and every one had his dish of meat set before him, according to the *Persian* fashion, after which they spent the remaining part of the day under the same tree.

On the first of *September* the Governor of *Armenia*, accompanied by two of his brothers, paid the Ambassadors a visit, in order to contract an intimate acquaintance with them; and in return for the civilities they received, they on the 18th invited the Ambassadors with their whole retinue, who went on horseback, and were received by *Seferas Beg*, Governor of *Armenia*, at the *Armenian* church in the suburbs where the Patriarch of the place, was saying the service in a cope of cloth of silver, with gold flowers, set with pearls, having on his head a mitre, adorned in the same manner. The walls of the church were hung with several pictures, and the floor covered with rich carpets. The service being over, they went to the Governor's palace, where being conducted through a large gallery into a garden and from thence into an open hall, they were entertained after the *Persian* manner, with fruit and preserves, and a most delicious liquor, no

unlike

unlike *rosa solis*, but incomparably more rich. When the cloth of silver and gold brocade, upon which this was served, was removed, and another of callico was laid in its place, the meat was served up in silver dishes, and among the rest some pork, and several other meats abhorred by the *Persians*.

They had not sat long at table, before they were conducted through a noble apartment into another hall, that had a very agreeable prospect into the garden. The floor was covered with rich carpets, on which were laid cushions of flowered sattin, the ground work of which was gold and silver. Round a white marble basin, that belonged to a fountain in the centre of the hall, stood a number of flaggons, and bottles filled with wine; but what they thought most worthy of observation, were pictures on the walls representing the dresses of women of most nations in the world. While they were eating the delicious fruits and preserves that were brought in, they were diverted with music and dancing; in the first of which *Elias Beg*, second brother to the governor, excelled the rest; for he not only gave them several tunes on the *Persian* lute, but accompanied this music with striking two little sticks against seven porcelain cups filled with water, and made them keep time with the lute. Meanwhile *Seferas Beg* did not forget to make the whole company drink the *Sophi's* health, in crystal glasses full of wine.

Night approaching, the Ambassadors took leave of the Governor, who under the pretence

of conducting them to the gate, brought the unexpectedly into the gallery on the other side of the garden, where they found a fresh entertainment of meat, fish, pies, fruit and preserves; and the hall, as well as the garden was illuminated with a vast number of lamps and torches. But as they had been eating almost all day, they sat down only out of complaisance, considering this collation rather as an effect of their host's generosity and magnificence, than as done with an intention to add to their former entertainment, which was in all respects one of the most agreeable they had ever met with, and even exceeded that of the Sophi's.

On the 19th of *September*, the Ambassadors had a second private audience of the Sophi, which did not last above half an hour, after which they dined at court, as is usual upon such occasions; when, by the Sophi's desire, their music, which consisted of a bass-viol, a tenor, and a violin, played before him for half an hour, on which he let them know that he did not dislike the music, but he thought his own as good.

On the 25th of *September*, the Ambassadors and their whole retinue were most magnificently entertained by the *English* in the bazar near the market-place, a large structure that has a very fine garden. They were first treated with fruit and preserves set upon the floor, according to the *Persian* fashion; from whence they were led into a spacious hall, where they found a table well furnished with variety of provisions dressed after the *English* way, and

did not forget to drink the healths of most of the Kings and Princes of *Europe*.

Dinner being over, they were conducted into another hall, that had a fine prospect into the garden, where they not only found another collation of fruit and preserves; but had the diversion of six *Indian* dancing-women, some of whom brought their husbands along with them, who sometimes joined in the dance. Their complexion was of an olive colour: but they had good features, a soft skin, and were well shaped. About their necks they wore necklaces of pearls and gold, and in their ears gold and silver pendants, set with precious stones; some had also bracelets of pearls, others of silver, and they had all rings on their fingers, and one upon the thumb, which instead of a seal had a piece of steel of the bigness of a crown piece, so finely polished that it served instead of a looking glass. They were all cloathed in a kind of stuff so very thin, that any part of their bodies might be seen through it, except those which were covered with drawers. Some had caps, others tiffany dresses on their heads, and some wore silk scarves with gold and silver flowers, which coming round their shoulders, hung down on both sides, to the ground. Some were barefooted, and others wore shoes of a very odd make. They had all just above the instep, a string with bells, by which they shewed the exactness of their motions, while they at the same time played with their castagnets with the utmost dexterity. Their music consisted of tabers, pipes, and *Indian* timbrels; which

which last are about two feet long, in the shape of a barrel, and hanging about their necks they play upon them with their fingers. The motions of these *Indian* women, especially with their hands and feet, were most surprizing; and in the mean time they, with the most graceful and careless air, addressed themselves to some of the spectators.

On the first of *October* the Ambassadors entertained the *Moscovite* Envoy, and three *Armenian* Lords, the principal *English* and *French* merchants, the *Spanish Austin* Fryars, and some *Indian* Carmelites, with 40 dishes in three courses, after the *German* fashion. The Governor of *Armenia* was so pleased with some of the *German* pastes, that he spoke of them to the *Sophi*, who seeming desirous to see them, their cook was ordered to make some, which being presented to his Majesty, he received them very obligingly, and presented them to the ladies at court, who were extremely delighted with them. The feast was concluded with the diversion of running at the ring, at which *Mandeflo* got the first, and the Ambassador *Brugman* got the second prize.

The next day the Prior of the *Austin* Fryars coming to represent to our Author, the Secretary of the embassy, the debaucheries of some of the Ambassadors retinue, and especially of the Ambassador *Brugman*, he went to that Ambassador, in order to complain of the debauched lives of some of his people, and to desire that some reformation might be introduced among them; but he no sooner entered the

room, than he found Mr. *Brugman* with an Armenian woman; and that Ambassador, imagining that he came with a design to surprize him, was so incensed, that he swore he would be re- venged. The Secretary, who well knew his temper, immediately retired to the convent of the *Augustins*, with a design of leaving the embassy, and of returning by way of *Babylon* and *Aleppo* to *Germany*; but the Ambassador *Brugman* being informed of his resolution, sent to let him know, that he would have him murdered by the way, and the Secretary being sensible that this might be easily effected, thought his safest way to endeavour after a reconciliation, which was at last produced by the mediation of the Prior of the *Augustins*.

Some days after, as the Author was going to the suburbs of *Tzalsa*, he saw an Armenian marching in procession to the church in order to be married. In the front was the music, after which went a boy about twelve years of age, with a wax candle in his hand, followed by the bridegroom on horseback, who had two men riding on each side of him, and was followed by four men richly dressed; after whom were carried two dishes of meat, two pitchers of wine, and two dishes of apples, all which were set before the bridegroom, and his attendants, as soon as they came into the church; but the bridegroom did not touch them, and after the rest had eat a little, what was left was saved for the Priest, except the wine, which was all drank; our Author being obliged by the bridegroom, who observed him, to take a share. By this time the

bride

bride, with a young maid on her right hand, and on her left a married woman, with their faces covered with a vail of thin lawn, entered the church; and the Priest conducting the young couple to the altar, blessed them, and held a wooden cross over them, while they joined hands, and the bride laid her hand on the bridegroom's breast. After mutual promises of fidelity, the Priest gave them the communion, by giving to each a piece of the consecrated host steeped in wine. The bread of the eucharist among the *Armenians* is not leavened, as in the *Moscovite*, and other *Greek* churches; but is an unleavened paste of the size and thickness of a crown piece. During the communion they sung and played on a kind of large cimbals; it being the constant practice of the *Armenians*, never to communicate without music. After the communion rose-water was cast upon the new married couple and all present, and a scarf being tied about the bride's right hand, the bridegroom took hold of it, and drew her after him to the church door, from whence they all went on horseback to the place where the wedding feast was prepared, which always lasts three days, during which the new married couple are not permitted to cohabit together.

Our Author afterwards passing along, heard a noise in another *Armenian* church, made by striking a stick upon a board, which is used instead of bells, they not being permitted in *Persia*; when going in he found it to be a christening; but saw nobody in the church besides the Priest, the Clerk, an aged woman, who brought

the child, and a young man, who was to be godfather. The Priest, after some prayers, put several questions to the godfather, after which the latter carried the child to the old woman to unswathe it; which done, they went into the sacristy, and going up to the font, which was placed within the wall like a trough, and was half an ell long and a quarter broad; the Priest consecrated the water, put into it some consecrated oil, and then putting the child naked into the font, baptized him in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, by thrice pouring water upon his head, and afterwards all over his body, making the sign of the cross in the forehead with consecrated oil. The *Armenians* do not commonly christen their infants till they are eight days old, unless they are in danger of dying; it being their opinion that infants who die before baptism cannot be saved; for which reason they do not allow them to be buried in the church-yard, nor can any in more advanced life be interred there, who have not communicated at least once a year.

On the 3d of *October* happened an affair which was attended with melancholy consequences: *John Rudolph Stadler*, a native of *Zurich* in *Switzerland*, was a very ingenious clock-maker in the service of the *Sophi*: he was about 38 years of age, and had married an *Armenian* woman, the sister of the Ambassador *Brugan's* favourite mistress; and, by that Ambassador's intercession, had, with great difficulty, obtained leave to return into his own country. In the mean while a thief breaking into his house,

the clockmaker caught him, and after severely beating him, turned him out of doors, which he had no sooner done, than repenting that he had used him no worse, he ran after him, and shot him dead with a pistol. The relations of the deceased immediately complained to the Mufti of the murder committed by an infidel upon one of the faithful, who thereupon caused the clockmaker to be seized the next morning as he was going to court, and put into the palank a wooden instrument which covers the neck and arms. The Ambassadors left no stone unturned to procure his release; but the authority and zeal of the Mufti prevailing, he was condemned to die, unless he would deserve the King's pardon, by turning *Mahometan*. Many of the *Persian* Lords, who esteemed him for his art, endeavoured to persuade him to save his life, by the hopes of great advantages; but this proving ineffectual, he was twice carried to the market place, to try whether the terror of death would induce him to alter his sentiments, but in vain, he positively declaring that nothing should make him violate his religion. The *Augustine* and *Carmelite* Fryars also strove to persuade him to die in the *Romish* faith, which he also refused protesting that he would die in the reformed religion, which he accordingly did; for being delivered up to the relations of the deceased, the first who struck at him with his scymeter missed, the second struck into the palank, but the third severed his head from the body, which lay all day exposed at the place of execution, till in the evening, at the intercession of Mr. Br...

man, it was brought to the Ambassadors quarters, in order to be interred the next day. But the Sophi happening to invite the Ambassadors to a hunting match, the interment could not be performed till the 22d, when the Governor of Armenia, the *Moscovite* Envoy, and several other *Christians* were present at the funeral.

The hunting match beginning on the 17th, horses and camels were brought early in the morning to the Ambassadors quarters by their Mehemander, who conducted them to a spacious plain, where the Sophi soon after appeared, attended by 300 persons of quality mounted on very fine horses, and at his first seeing the Ambassadors, he saluted them with great condescension. He was that day dressed in a silver brocade vest; his turban was adorned with herons feathers, and he was followed by four led horses which had rich saddles, harnesses and cloths embroidered with gold and precious stones, and close to him was an Astrologer, who was continually making his observations. The morning was spent in fowling, and about noon they were entertained by the Sophi with a dinner under tents fixed in an *Armenian* village, which being over they were quartered by their Mehemander in another village at a small distance, where they were visited by some of the *Persian* Lords, who partook of the excellent fruits presented to the Ambassadors by the *Armenian Christians*. But the Sophi, being informed that the Mehemander had lodged them in another village, immediately ordered them to take up their lodging in a house next ad-

joining to that where he himself was, which was instantly put in execution, and their supper was brought them in gold dishes out of the Sophi's kitchen.

Very early the next morning, the Ambassadors went with the Sophi to hunt cranes, where a long secret way being made under ground, a considerable quantity of wheat was scattered in a field at the end of it, and this bringing a vast number of cranes, near 800 of them were taken. The Sophi put some of their feathers in his turban, and presenting two to each of the Ambassadors, they put them in their hats. They afterwards dined in the same place as the day before; and towards night the Sophi, attended only by the Ambassadors and six other persons, went to hunt the duck and wild goose, and alighting at 200 paces from the place intended for the sport, entered a large hut made of earth, near which the nets were spread upon the side of a small brook; but no birds appearing, they spent their time in drinking several bottles with the Sophi, and then returned to their quarters, to which their supper was again sent them.

On the 19th, abundance of hawks and three leopards bred to hunting were brought; but having for some time beat the bushes to no purpose, they went to one of the royal parks, which was two leagues in circumference, and surrounded by a high wall. This park was divided into three partitions; in the first of which were kept harts, goats, deer, hares and foxes; in the second, a kind of deer called

Ahnes;

Ahues; and in the third wild asses. The leopards being by the Sophi's command, let in among the ahues, they soon dispatched each of them one. The next diversion was among the wild asses, at one of which the Ambassador *Brugman*, by the Sophi's desire, discharged his pistol, but missing his aim, his Majesty, though riding full speed, shot him with an arrow in the breast, and wounded several others, never missing, though in full gallop. He cut another ass with his scymeter across the back, and with one blow cleft it to the belly, and also with a single blow almost cut off the head of another; which done, one of the Khans wiped the scymeter clean, and put it into the scabbard. They then went into a small inclosure in the midst of the park, where his Majesty having commanded one of the two huntsmen, who attended him with fowling pieces, to shoot at an ass; the more ancient of the two, considering it as a disgrace that the other should fetch it down before him, shot at it; but missing his aim, was laughed at by the company, at which he was so exasperated, that he drew his scymeter upon the other, and cut off his thumb. The Sophi, being immediately informed of this affair, ordered that the offender should lose his head; but at the intercession of some who were present, he consented to his losing only his ears. The executioner, however, forgetting part of his duty, cut off only one half of the ear, which the grand huntsman perceiving, alighted, and taking his knife, cut off the remaining part, to

the great astonishment of the Ambassadors, who were amazed at seeing a nobleman of his quality interfere in the office of an executioner.

A small amphitheatre being erected in this inclosure, the Sophi entertained them with a collation of fruits and preserves, and soon after 32 wild asses were forced in, at which his Majesty discharged some shot with his fowling pieces, and wounded others with his arrows; after which, the Ambassadors and the *Persian* Lords being permitted to follow his example, the side of these beasts were soon full of arrows, which afforded a cruel kind of sport to the spectators, especially on their running so close to each other as to force the arrows deeper into their sides, which filling them with rage against their companions, they run at each other with great fierceness. At last, however, these, and 30 more which were afterwards let in, were knocked down, in order to be sent to the Sophi's kitchen at *Ispahan*; the flesh of wild asses being in high esteem among the *Persians*.

By this time dinner was brought to the same place, when *Brugman* took the opportunity of presenting the Sophi with the Duke of *Holstein*'s picture in a box set with diamonds, and all with a steel mirror polished on both sides, and embellished with several figures by that famous artist *John Dresden*. These presents he made upon his own account.

Dinner being over, the Ambassadors retired to some neighbouring houses to take their afternoon's nap; but they had scarcely got thither when the Sophi sent them ten archbues and a fine

stag, the horns of which had twelve brow antlers, and word was at the same time brought them, that his Majesty was again on horseback. They therefore followed his example, and riding in search of him, found him employed in hawking. But he no sooner got sight of them, than he left that sport, and with nine persons of his retinue, and six of theirs, retired to a large walk, at the end of which was a decoy for wild ducks; but instead of employing themselves in that diversion, they soon fell to drinking, and they all became so merry, that the ducks were frightened from coming near them. Mr. *Mandeslo* had the honour of filling the Sophi a glass of wine, and afterwards of kissing his knee; his Majesty at the same time presented him with an apple, which was looked upon as a particular mark of kindness, and he was afterwards considered by the court, as a person much in his Majesty's favour. Mean while *Haly Beg*, the deputy steward of the household, who had filled the Sophi's glasses, got so drunk that he made such a hideous noise at the other end of the walk, that his Majesty sent a person to bid him withdraw, and this not succeeding, he ordered another to drag him from thence, and to set him on horseback. But when they were going to execute his Majesty's commands, *Haly Beg* became so outrageous, as to abuse and strike those who endeavoured to force him away, which the Sophi perceiving, went thither to persuade him; but finding himself not much better treated than the rest, laid his hand upon his

his scymeter, and though he was one of his greatest favourites, threatened to cut off his head, which put the steward into such a fright, that he immediately became sober, and considering that there was no jesting with his Majesty when once provoked, he mounted his horse as nimbly as if he had not tasted a drop of wine, which set the Sophi a laughing, and he returned in a very merry humour to the Ambassadors, but withdrew soon after, and they returned to their lodgings.

On the 20th the Sophi did not go a hunting, but the Ambassadors dined with him in his summer-house, which was pleasantly situated in the midst of a garden near the water side; in the afternoon they took a turn, and in their way caught a white heron.

On the 21st, being sent for early in the morning to go with the Sophi to catch pigeons, they were conducted to the top of a very high tower, within which were a 1000 nests; and the whole company being placed on the outside, and the Ambassadors trumpet commanded to sound, the pigeons, which flew through the holes in vast numbers, were most of them killed by the Sophi and the rest of the company. This put an end to their diversion for that time; but in their way towards the city, the Sophi took them into one of his gardens called *Tzarbach*, remarkable for its beauty, where being entertained with another magnificent treat, they returned to their lodgings.

Within a few days after, proclamation was made by the cryer of the city, that the Sophi, being

being to go abroad that way with the ladies of the court, no-body should presume to appear that day in the streets. Whenever the Sophi's wives or concubines made an excursion, they are carried upon camels in a kind of covered chests, notwithstanding which no person is allowed to appear in the streets, or within a musket shot of the field where they take their diversion, under pain of death, because these ladies appear in the field on horseback, with hawks in their hands, and also make use of bows and arrows, for which reason none but the Sophi and the eunuchs must appear among them; even the Lords who attend the Sophi always leave the town half an hour before the ladies, and while they are diverting themselves, are obliged to spend their time in hunting at the distance of half a league from them.

On the 19th of *November* the Lord Chancellor made a magnificent entertainment for the Ambassadors in a most sumptuous hall, at the entrance of which was a very handsome fountain, and opposite the door several pictures of women in different dresses copied after some *European* originals, below which the walls were on all sides covered with looking glasses of various sizes. All their meat was served in plate, besides which they had the King's music, and the diversion of the dancing women, who, not behaving with the same reservedness as before the Sophi, shewed several instances of dexterity. Among the rest one of them placed a porcelain vessel two feet high in the midst of the hall, and in turning about, took it up between

tween her legs with such a slight that nobody could perceive she had any thing there, and after continuing the dance with the same air, returned it with equal dexterity to the place whence she had taken it, without making one false step.

It must be confessed, that the *Persians*, whenever they entertain their friends, omit nothing which they imagine may contribute to their diversion; and as they are extremely fond of women, these never fail to be introduced at their feasts. The master of the entertainment offers these dancing women to his guests, and he who has a mind to one of them has nothing more to do than to arise and conduct her into a private room, and as soon as the business is over, to return to his place, where nobody takes the least notice of what has been done. But a person is allowed to refuse this favour without giving offence. *Ardebil* is the only place throughout all *Persia*, where these dancing women are not tolerated; *Shah Abas* having banished them from thence on account of the sanctity of the place.

After dinner, the music and dancing women being ordered to withdraw, the Ambassadors had a private conference with the Chancellor in his garden, relating to their negociation, which was afterwards repeated.

On the second of *December* the *Sophi* sent each of the Ambassadors a present of a horse with their saddles and bridles adorned with large gold plates and buckles; also two *Persian* garments, with a turban and girdle of gold.

gold brocade; 205 pices of fifteen sorts of silk, &c. and 200 tomnans in money, amounting to 1000 pistoles, to be divided between them towards their expence in their return home. To each of the five principal persons of the retinue, he gave a sattin vest and another of taffety, with gold and silver flowers, and to each of the other gentlemen a vest of tabby flowered with gold.

On the 3d of *December* the Ambassadors were invited once more to dine with the Sophi, when, according to the custom of the country, they wore the best of those garments presented by his Majesty, over their other cloaths. They were entertained with the same ceremonies as before, after which the Chamberlain conducted the Ambassadors to take their leave of the Sophi, who delivered them with his own hand, his answer to the Duke of *Holstein's* letter promising, in return, to send him a most solemn embassy. The Ambassador then expressed their acknowledgments for the honours and noble treatment they had received during their abode in his kingdom.

The following day the *Moscovite* Envoy obtained his dismissal, in order to return with them into *Moscovy*, and a day or two after several of the *Persian* Lords sent their presents to the Ambassadors; which consisted of fine horses, mules, and rich silks.



C H A P. X.

The Situation of Ispahan, its Gardens, Summer Houses, and public Buildings.

I S P A H A N, the capital of the province of Erak and of all Persia, is situated in 32° 30 min. north latitude, and in 50° east longitude in a fine plain, and is almost surrounded with mountains at a few leagues distance. It is of an oval form, and without reckoning the suburbs, is twelve miles in circumference. It has also twelve gates, nine of which are only open, and is computed to have 18,000 houses and 500,000 inhabitants. The fortifications are mostly of earth, and very inconsiderable, and though the bastions are of brick they are so miserably flanked, that they are but a slender defence; besides the ditch is so ruined, that a man may at any time pass over it dry shod. It is, however, the chief trading place of all Persia, and is frequented by all the Asiatic nations, and in particular by the Indians, whose commodities are extremely valuable; for, not to mention the musk and ambergris, they sell great quantities of pearls and diamonds. Besides these there are considerable numbers of Tartars of different nations, Turks, Jews, Armenians, Georgians, English, Dutch and French.

The Persians are at a greater expence in their gardens than in their houses, though the former

are

are very different from those in most parts of Europe; for as nature overspreads their fields with tulips and a vast variety of the finest flowers, so these are not placed in their gardens; but they apply themselves with all their care to the cultivation of the most excellent fruit-trees, that nature assisted by art can produce in so happy a climate. They are also very curious in their walks, which are set on both sides with cinnar-trees, a kind of poplar, unknown in Europe. This tree grows up to the height of a vine, the leaves are broad, resembling those of the vine, and it bears a fruit that has some resemblance to the chesnut, though it has no kernel. The wood is a dark brown, and so finely veined, that when rubbed, it appears more beautiful than any thing made of the root of the finest walnut-trees, and of this wood the Persians commonly make their door and window shutters. Fountains are the chief ornaments of their gardens: these have large receptacles from whence the water is conveyed by channels from one basin to another. The Sophi's garden called *Tzarbach*, near the city, is one of the finest in the world, it being an exact square, half a league every way. It is divided by the river *Senderuth* into a cross, which forms four different gardens; at the south end is a mount planted with several walks, on both sides of which are steep precipices, made by cutting the rock into several channels, through which the river falls from the top into basins made for that purpose. These cascades are about three feet broad, and so steep that the

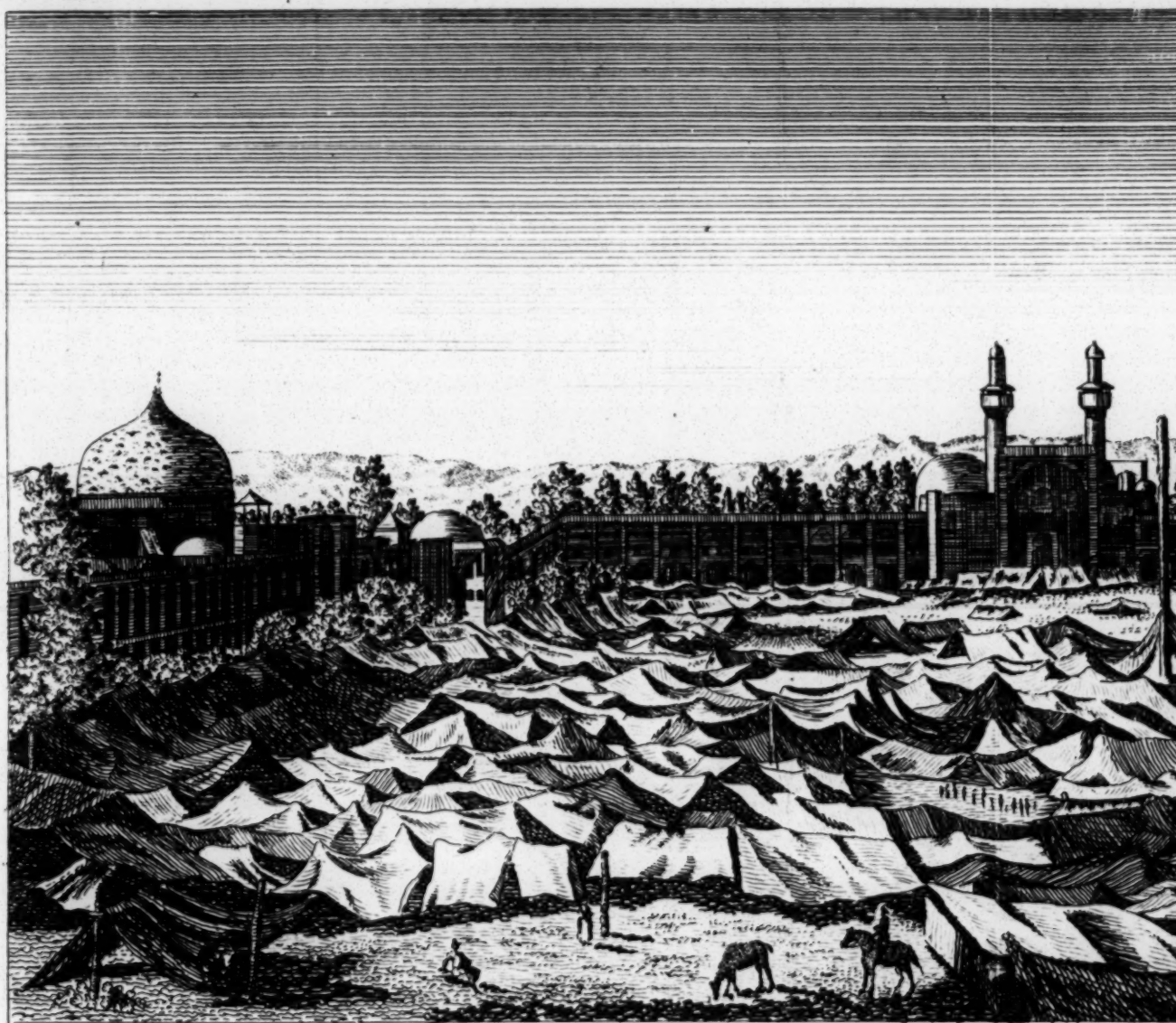
the water is forced with great violence into the bason. Every walk has also its peculiar bason of white marble, where the water spouts forth in various figures. These streams all meet in a large bason in the midst of the garden, where a column of water is thrown up 40 feet high. At the four corners of the bason are four large pavilions, the apartments of which are adorned with carved work gilt. There are walks from each of these pavilions to the others, planted with tzinnar-trees. There are likewise innumerable fruit-trees of all sorts, which Shah *Abas* caused to be brought thither, even from *Turky* and *India*. Among the rest our Author saw a kind of grapes, as big as a man's thumb, without any stones, the pulp of which was firm and of a most delicious taste. Ten master gardeners are appointed to look after this garden, each of whom has ten other gardeners under him; and they are permitted to let any body come into the garden for fresh kashbekies, or two-pence a piece, and to eat what fruit they please, but they must carry none away.

Most of the *Persian* Lords and rich merchants have a kind of summer-house or galleries in their gardens, inclosed by a row of pillars, on the four corners of which are many rooms, where they take the benefit of the air and breezes, by chusing that where the wind blows. These summer-houses, both in building and furniture, frequently exceed their ordinary dwelling-houses. Indeed, though persons of quality have very magnificent furni-

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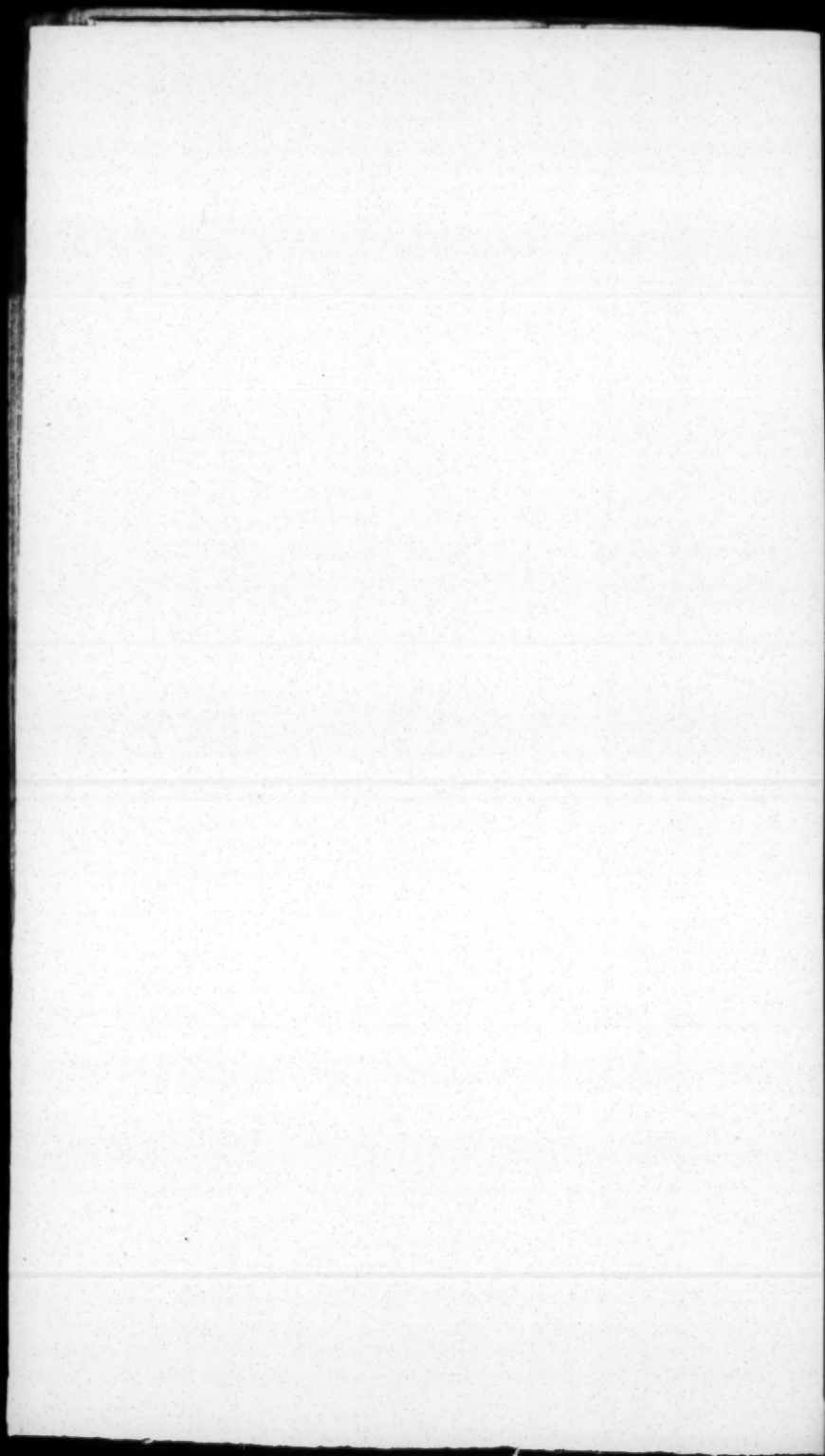
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A View of the great Meidan, or Market,



Market, before the Shah's Palace at Isfahan.



ture, the houses in which they usually reside make but an indifferent appearance, they being built only of earth or bricks baked in the sun. These structures are generally square, and commonly four stories high, including the ground room; but instead of glass, they in winter cover their windows, which are made with lattices with oiled paper.

The meidan, or great market-place, is very large, it being 700 feet long, and 250 broad. The houses round it are all of brick of an equal height, and the shops vaulted. The side towards the royal palace contains the goldsmiths, lapidaries and druggists, opposite to which are the woollen-drapers, mercers, and those who sell calicoes, with the taverns and other eating and drinking-houses. Round the market-place are planted trees, not unlike box, though they grow somewhat higher; they are always green, and being so cut that the shops appear between them, add greatly to the beauty of the place; but one of the chief ornaments, as well as conveniences of the market-place, is a rivulet carried at the foot of these trees through a channel of freestone, raised two feet from the ground, and which is discharged into two large basins, and from thence conveyed by pipes to other parts of the city. At the end of a great vaulted gallery are two balconies opposite to each other, and covered over head, where the city music plays every night at sun-set, or whenever the Sophi passes through the market-place; a custom observed in all the cities in *Persia* that are the residence of a Khan.

Before the royal palace are several pieces of cannon without carriages, and over the outer gate is a large square structure, which has windows on all sides. The chief apartments belonging to the palace are a hall where the Sophi treats the principal persons of the court on the New-year's-day; and the great hall of justice, where appeals are brought before the Sophi who presides there in person, and there frequently gives audience to foreign Ambassadors; but this hall, with the spacious court before it, has been already described. These, and several other halls, have many chambers, closets, galleries, and apartments belonging to them, fit for the entertainment of so great a court, and of the Sophi's wives and numerous concubines, who all live in the same palace; and what is more extraordinary, there is not any considerable apartment but has its peculiar garden. There also belongs to the palace, as we have already observed, a place of refuge for all unfortunate persons, whether criminals or debtors.

On the outside of the royal palace is the citadel, which is fortified with a rampart and several bastions of earth. It is commanded by a Governor, who has a strong garrison under him, for the defence of the place, and the Sophi's treasury, armory, and stores of ammunition, though it has no other artillery but field-pieces.

On the south side of the great market is a fine mosque, which has a large court before it, in which is a very handsome fountain. This
mosque

mosque is a vast structure; the walls are of white polished marble, the pieces of which are so artfully cemented that it is impossible to see where they are joined. The city also contains many other mosques remarkable for their magnificence.

Opposite to the great mosque stand the tipping houses, among which the taverns are esteemed most infamous. Near these are the places where they drink tea, which are in great repute; and here persons in good circumstances spend their time in playing at chess. The coffee-houses, which are separate from these, are frequented by those who love tobacco and coffee: These are also the places where the poets and historians are constantly to be met with, who commonly sit on a high chair in the middle of the room, where they entertain the company with their satyrical stories.

In the centre of the great market-place stands a high pole, on the top of which they sometimes put a melon, an apple, or a trencher, with money upon it, at which they shoot on horseback, in full galop; the Sophi himself, and sometimes the Lords of the court, assist at this sport, when great sums are laid; the money that falls from the trencher belongs to the Sophi's footmen, and he that obtains the prize is obliged to give an entertainment to the whole company, and even to his Majesty himself, if he has shot among them. They have another game like cricket, at which they likewise play on horseback, striking the ball when riding in full career. They likewise frequently exercise

selves at throwing the javelin. As the *Persians* are extremely curious in their horses, they have frequent races run from one pillar to another in the market-place, and when his Majesty is disposed to be a spectator, he places himself in a kind of wooden hut, which being set on four wheels may be removed at pleasure.

On turning out of the meidan, or great market-place, to the right, you come to the bazar, or second market-place, in the middle of which is an open cloyster, which contains the principal shops where the richest stuffs and commodities of the kingdom are sold. This market-place is divided into several streets, which are covered over head, and contain a great number of shops, well stored with all sorts of commodities, sold at reasonable rates, every thing being cheap at *Ispahan*, except fuel and meat, the country round about it being destitute of forests and meadows. For the conveniency of trade, there are also built at *Ispahan*, many caravanseras, and square storehouses, surrounded with high walls; they are commonly three stories high, and, besides the vaults below, have all manner of conveniences, as halls, chambers, and galleries.

Among the rest of the public structures, the two convents belonging to the *Spanish* and *Italian* Fryars ought not to be omitted; one is the convent of the *Augustine* Fryars, already described; and the other, that of the *Carmelites*, who, when our Author was there, amounted to no more than ten in number, though the edifice might vie with any in *Europe* belonging to that order.

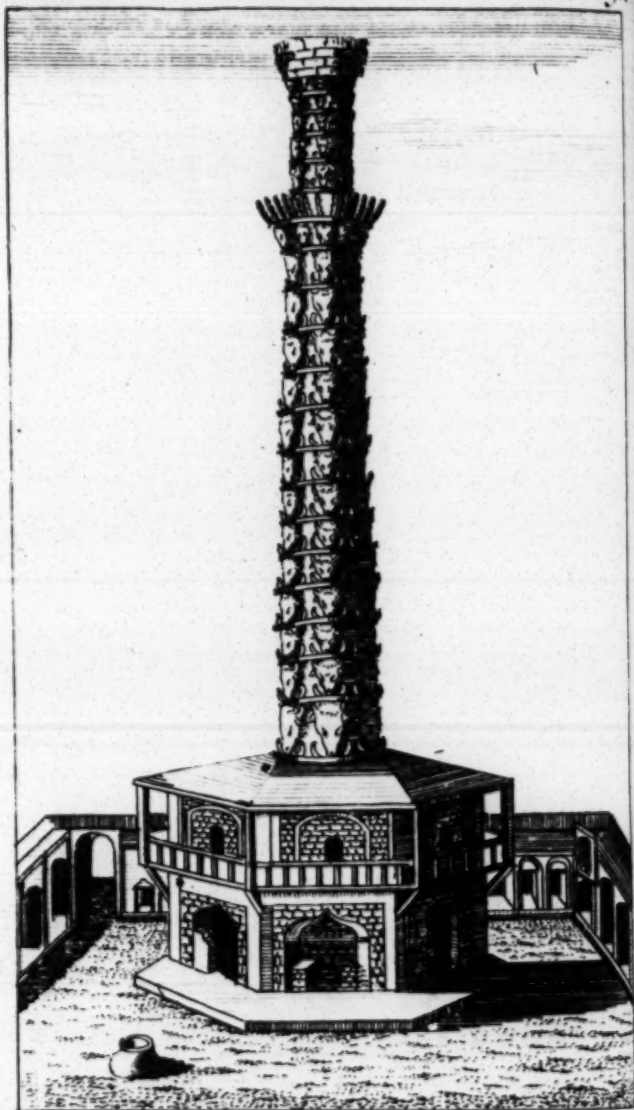
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The Tower of Horns at Isfahan.

through MOSCOVY into PERSIA. 91

order. Three *French Capuchins* were also at this time laying the foundation of a convent, in a place they had purchased for that purpose.

Between this and the convent of the *Carmelites*, are the King's stables, where the most remarkable thing is a high tower, built entirely of earth, and the horns of ahues and stags; the origin of which is said to be Shah *Tamas's* killing in one hunting-match 2000 of these animals, in memory of which he caused this tower to be erected, and their horns to be employed in the building.

The city of *Ispahan* is surrounded on all sides with large suburbs, the chief of which is inhabited by *Armenian Christians*, most of whom are merchants. This quarter contains twelve churches and about 3000 houses, which are not inferior to the best in the city. Another of the suburbs is inhabited by *Georgian Christians*, most of whom are rich merchants as well as *Armenians*; and on the west end of the city are the suburbs inhabited by the *Gebers*, said to be the descendants of the ancient *Persians**.

* See an account of these people in Mr. *Hanway's Travels into Persia*, Chap. XI. Page 235—240.



C H A P. XI.

They leave Ispahan, and are refused Admission into several Villages. A Description of the Pass of Pylas at the Entrance of Ghilan, and a View of that fine Province. They arrive at Scamachie. An Account of the Ceremonies with which the Khan received a rich Habit from the Sophi, as a Mark of the Continuance of his Favour. A Description of Derbent: Of the Ruins of a Wall 50 Miles in Length, and the great Number of Tombs near that City.

THE Ambassadors left *Ispahan* on the 21st of *December* in the evening, and after being treated with a collation, at the distance of a league from the city, proceeded that night three leagues to the village of *Reschman*; where they staid all the following day, when the *Augustine* Fryars at *Ispahan*, some *French* merchants, and *Mr. Mandesslo*, who had obtained permission from the Duke of *Holstein* to travel into the *Indies*, took their leave of them, and the latter informed them, that the *Sophi's* Ambassador to *Holstein* was to follow them in a few days, and to carry with him presents for the Duke to the value of 25,000 crowns.

They proceeded on their journey without any accident 'till the 6th of *January*, 1638; but had scarce left the city of *Kom*, when the
Ambassador

Ambassador *Brugman* having a fall from his horse, put his right arm out of joint, which obliged them to stay all the next day at *Saba*; but they continued their journey on the 8th. They now found the ground covered half a foot deep with snow, which continued till they reached the mountains of *Ghilan*.

On the 9th they met with an Ambassador from the King of *Poland* to the *Sophi*, whose train consisted only of 25 persons; he having been obliged by the *Moscovites* to send back the far greatest part of his retinue from *Smolensko*. This Ambassador delivered to them a letter from an *Armenian* Bishop they had seen at *Astracan*, in which they were informed, that a considerable quantity of provisions were laid up in that city for their use. They intended to have lain that night at the village of *Ara-feng*, and sent an harbinger to prepare their lodgings; but the inhabitants, remembring that the Ambassador *Brugman* had affronted the Judge of the village by throwing in his face both the water and bason, which that Magistrate had brought to *Brugman* to wash his hands, they refused them entrance, and the villages of *Dowlen*, *Abath*, and *Ketxisan*, also following their example, they were forced to travel three leagues farther through slippery ways, to the village of *Kulluskur*; by which their people were forced to travel on foot, and some where left behind, who were sent for after their arrival the next day at *Caswin*, where they

they were obliged to stay nine days, 'till fresh cattle could be provided for their journey.

On the 20th of *January* they left *Caswin*, and on the 22d passed seven leagues over mountains of different colours, as yellow, red, green, and blue, which offered a very delightful prospect. Through these mountains runs a brook, that has such a variety of turnings and windings, that they crossed it above thirty times that day, and in the evening passed the river *Senderuth*, over a bridge that joins the two mountains, between which it runs, and at night lodged in a village situated in a pleasant valley.

The next day they proceeded two leagues by the side of a forest of olive trees, at the extremity of which, they found themselves at a place famous in antiquity, under the name of *Fauces Hyrcaniæ*; but in the times of *Alexander the Great*, and among the modern *Persians*, known by that of *Pylas*. It is a very narrow pass into the province of *Ghilan*, where two rapid rivers joining, fall with a most dreadful noise from the rocks. The river formed by this confluence, is called *Isparuth*; but before this junction, the largest was named *Kislosein*, which running under a stone bridge, passes into the province of *Ghilan*, and by two several channels discharges itself into the *Caspian* sea. This bridge has six large arches, each of which contains a good room and kitchen, besides other conveniences; so that these arches are sufficient to lodge a whole caravan.

No sooner had they passed the bridge than the road dividing into two, one leads through a fine champaign country to *Ardebil*, and the other extends strait through the province of *Ghilan*, over the most dreadful precipices, it being cut out of the rock, and so steep and narrow, that it scarcely affords a passage for one loaded horse or camel; nay, in some places they have been forced to make up the defects of the rock with mason's work. The cliffs reach on the left hand up to the very clouds, while on the other side nothing is to be seen but the most dreadful precipices, rendered more terrible by the noise of the river, which runs with great violence at the bottom. The *Persians*, as well as the Ambassadors retinue, were so astonished at the sight, that they were glad to lead their horses, and even that but loosely, for fear that if they should slip, they would draw their masters after them. The horses, however, proceeded very carefully, and with seeming fear; but the camels made surer steps, putting their feet into places cut in the rock for that purpose.

At the top of the mountain they found a custom-house, the receiver of which made them a present of some fruits. They were now not a little astonished at discovering, that though they had scarcely got out of the snow on the other side, the valleys were here full of blossoms, and they were more and more convinced of the surprizing difference, when they found the descent of the same mountain, the ascent to which had appeared so dreadful and attended

attended with such trouble and fatigue, change into the most delightful prospect, and attended with all imaginable ease; the roads passing through groves of olives, cypresses, box, citron and orange-trees; with these, that side of the mountain was entirely covered, and of the last they found such plenty, that they flung oranges at one another for diversion: but what even appeared still more surprizing was, that the air which had sufficiently pinched them the same morning, was before night very hot. They took up their quarters at the village of *Pyle-Rubar*, upon the banks of the river *Isparruth*, at the foot of the mountain. The houses were indeed very small, but the inconveniences they suffered in their lodgings were in some measure recompensed by the vast number of gardens, vineyards, and fruit-trees, planted all around them.

It must be confessed that the province of *Gilan* is a terrestrial paradise, abounding in silk, oil, wine, rice, tobacco and a vast variety of fruit, and particularly vines, which spread their branches up the trees. The *Caspian* sea, as well as the rivers, afford the inhabitants prodigious quantities of fish, their pasture grounds feed vast herds of cattle, and their forests furnish them with venison and wild-fowl. This province stretches along the *Caspian* sea in the form of a crescent, and is encompassed like an amphitheatre by a continual ridge of high mountains, the extremities of which extend to that sea, and being covered all over with trees, the whole province appears as if surrounded with

with one entire inclosure of groves, whence it is rendered almost inaccessible, there being only four passes into it, and these so narrow, that not above one loaded camel can pass at a time. Out of the mountains arise several rivers which water the adjacent plains, and render them very fertile.

On the 24th of *January* they continued their journey along the river side, with a wood of olive-trees on their left, which afforded them a very agreeable shade against the heat of the sun which was very excessive. Afterwards they passed over a very steep rock, which brought them into a fine plain overspread with new grass, interspersed with violets that communicated their fragrance to the air. They lodged that night in a village, where they found the houses covered with slates and tiles, on account of the frequent rains which fall there.

The next day, after travelling five leagues, they reached the city of *Reshd*, where the woods are bordered with corn fields parted by deep trenches, into which they let in the water and use it in watering the grounds, when the heat of the summer has dried up that of the rivers near their sources. The country people near this city apply themselves chiefly to the cultivation of rice, and their houses lie scattered at the end of each piece of ground.

The city of *Reshd* the capital of the province of *Ghilan*, is of a considerable size but without the least defence; and is so well planted with trees, that the houses are not discovered from among them till you enter the

streets. It is situated in 31° north latitude, and in 50° longitude from *London*. The houses are not so well built as those of the other cities of *Persia*, but are all covered with slates or tiles; their greatest ornaments on the outside are the vast numbers of citron and orange trees. The market-place, which is very large, has a great number of shops, and provisions are very cheap.

Having staid five days at *Reschd*, they left that city on the 30th of *January* in the morning, and travelled all that day in a spacious plain which extends to the very borders of *Ghilan*. It was planted with box and mulberry-trees, and watered by many rivers that have very high bridges. Having proceeded four leagues, they took up their quarters at *Kisma*.

The next day they continued their journey through the plain, for four leagues, when they found the country so well stocked with mulberry-trees, that at a distance they resembled a forest. They also saw many vineyards, and towards evening met the Calenter or Deputy Governor of *Kesker*, at the head of 30 horse, and a mule laden with wine, fruits, and other provisions, of which the Ambassadors took a collation in the fields. They were soon after met by the Khan or Governor, accompanied by two gentlemen on horseback, who received the Ambassadors with more than ordinary civility, and conducted them to his own house at *Kurab*, and after having treated them with a good collation of fruit and preserves, ordered certain gentlemen to attend them to the lodg-

ings prepared for them in the city, and made them a present of four wild-boars.

The small city of *Kurab* is seated among a great number of trees at the same distance from the *Caspian* sea as *Reschd*, that is two leagues. It is chiefly famous for the birth of *Shah Sefi*, who was then on the throne.

They left *Kurab* on the first of *February* about ten in the morning, when the weather was very fair and hot; the Khan taking leave of them when they had proceeded a league from the city, ordered the *Calenter*, a young man of an amiable disposition, to conduct them through his government. When they had proceeded two leagues, they came to the *Caspian* sea, and having travelled about a league along the shore, took up their lodgings at a house near the torrent of *Nasseru*. The next day they continued their journey along the sea side, to the north-west, for six leagues together, and that day passed at least fourteen small rivers or rather torrents. About noon their *Calenter* left them to the conduct of the *Calenter* of *Astara*, who received them on the banks of the river *Dinatfar*, the common boundary between the governments of *Kasfer* and *Astara*, and conducted them from the high road through some corn fields to the village of *Sengar-Hafara*, where they lodged that night and were regaled with five wild boars, of which there are vast numbers in the adjacent forest, because they are seldom hunted by the *Persians*, who are not permitted to eat them.

On the third they set out early in the morning, and proceeded four leagues to the east-north-east, at night took up their lodging in a miserable village. The next day being provided with fresh horses, they continued their journey four leagues along the sea-coast to the north, and then passed through a forest two leagues in length, in which they crossed no less than twenty-two rivers. About half a league from the village where they were to take up their lodgings, they were met by the Khan of *Astara* at the head of 200 horse, who conducted the Ambassadors to the village of *Chofkedebene*, situated upon a river of the same name, which runs through it.

They found the vines in these parts as large in bulk as a man's middle. The next day being the conclusion of the *Persian* Lent, the Khan entertained the Ambassadors at a noble feast, when he put them upon their guard, by informing them of the danger they were in of being attacked by the *Cossacks*, who had two years before plundered the city of *Reschd*.

On the 7th of *February*, they proceeded seven leagues along the sea-shore to the pass which leads into the province of *Lengerkunan*. This is a narrow bank, raised between the mountains and the fens, and the only passage on this side out of the province of *Gbilan*. At the end of this causeway is the river *Serdane*, from whence they proceeded to *Lenkeran*, where they staid three days for some persons belonging to their train, who had been left behind, and

and also to refresh their camels, and get fresh horses.

On the 11th they continued their journey five leagues to *Kesilgats*, crossing four great rivers. The city is small; it is about half a league from the sea, and situated upon a small river in a fine plain. From hence they had a full view of the mountains of *Ghilan*, to the west-north-west, sinking by degrees into little hills towards the country of *Mokan*. At the foot of the mountains were several handsome villages, and a great number of trees planted in a strait line along a very large tract of pasture ground.

On the 12th of *February*, they pursued their journey through a champain country, and took up their quarters at night in the village of *El-hesdu*, seated at the foot of a very fertile hill. The village being inhabited only by soldiers, maintained out of the King's demesnes in those parts, the houses were very mean, they being made of laths plastered with clay.

The Ambassador *Brugman's* groom would have gone into the first house he came to, with one of the led horses, when the *Kisilibaeh*, or soldier to whom it belonged, told him that his house was free from quartering, and that besides he had no convenience for horses, and having a stick in his hand, gave the horse a slight blow on the head. *Brugman*, who saw the dispute, instantly dismounted, and in a rage rushed into the house, when the soldier not knowing him, stood upon the defensive, and gave him such a blow on the arm, that he

cried out for help. His domestics immediately ran to his assistance, and the poor fellow was so terribly beat in his own house, that he at last with great difficulty crawled out of it. Notwithstanding this, the Ambassador complained to the Mehemander, who answered, that he had no power over the Kifilibacks, whose superior officer was not there, and that he who had injured him had received such a chastisement, that he doubted whether he would recover. however, he might take what farther satisfaction he thought fit. Presuming on this permission, *Brugman* immediately sent to plunder the Kifilibach's house, and ordered his horse and arms to be brought away. The next day, he got together all his retinue, and caused it to be published by sound of drum, that he should depart immediately and that all who would stay might do it at their peril.

Not one of the company, not even his colleague, knew his design; but it was soon discovered, when being mounted, he stopped at the Ambassador *Crusius's* lodgings, and there desired the Mehemander to bring forth the man who had struck him the day before; but he objected, that he was so dangerously wounded, that he was unable to rise. Yet *Brugman* ordered him to be brought in a coverlet, and notwithstanding the entreaties of the other *Persians* in his behalf, commanded an *Armenian*, who was interpreter for the *Turkish* language, to beat him with a cudgel. The poor man was soon killed, and then *Brugman*, turning to the Mehemander and the other *Persians*, told them, that

that if Shah *Sefi* did not revenge the affront he had received, he would soon return with sufficient force to obtain satisfaction. The other soldiers shewed that they neither wanted the will nor the courage to cut them all to pieces, and only seemed restrained by the presence of the Mehemander, who staid behind to pacify them, and afterwards prevailed on *Brugman* to return the horse, arms and furniture to the wife and children of the deceased.

They proceeded the three following days over the heath of *Mokan*. On the 15th at night, they came within a mile of the river *Aras*, anciently called *Araxes*, and on the 20th reached the city of *Scamachie*, when by the Khan's special order they were lodged with the same *Armenians* who had been their landlords at the time of their first passage through that city. On the 22d of *February*, the Khan and Calenter came in person to invite the Ambassadors and their retinue to supper. The entertainment was very magnificent; but what was most obliging, was the offers of the Khan's friendship and service; and during a stay of five weeks he took all imaginable opportunities of rendering their abode in that city agreeable.

On the first of *March* the *Moscovite* Envoy celebrated the birth-day of the Czar his master, by a great and splendid entertainment, as the Khan did the 3d, 6th and 10th, on account of the New-year, when the Ambassadors were splendidly entertained at his own palace.

On the 14th of *March*, *Arab* Khan received the garment, according to the custom of *Persia*.

a mark of the continuance of the Sophi's favour: for after the Governors have sent their presents to the Sophi, he sends them a messenger to inform them, of his favour or displeasure; who being come near the city where the Governor resides, gives him notice of his arrival, when the Khan not being sure that he is ever likely to return, takes leave of the whole city; and accompanied by all his friends, goes a league to meet the Envoy; who no sooner sees him coming, but he makes a halt, and the Governor, after having laid his sword, turbant and upper garment, alights, and in a submissive posture approaches the Envoy, who delivers him out of a box covered with rich tapestry, a letter of grace and a rich garment, or else demands his head, which is cut off immediately, and put into the box. *Arab* Khan having, however, received some private assurance of his Sovereign's favour, and being willing that the Ambassadors should be present at this solemnity; desired their company, to which they consented. He appeared on horieback without arms, with several fine led horses before him, and a guard of fifteen carabiners, besides a retinue of above 400 gentlemen and certain persons carrying on the tops of long poles, the heads of some *Turks*, and the *Turkish* colours *Arab* had taken. Being come in this order to the Sophi's garden without the city, and seeing the messenger standing at the entrance with a box in his hand, the Khan on being come within twelve paces of him, laid aside his garment and turban, with a chearful countenance; but

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was a little startled when he heard the Envoy say nothing, till at last breaking silence, he cried, *Shah Sefi sends thee a garment and a letter of favour, thou art certainly beloved by the Sophi.* To which the Khan briskly replied, *I wish the Sophi's wealth to encrease for ever, and that every day of his life may be multiplied to a thousand. I am one of his Majesty's old servants.* Then taking the garment which was of sea green sattin, a rocket of cloth of gold, a girdle and a turban, the messenger assisted him in putting them on, and was presented with some tomans. The ceremony concluded with the Cafi's or Judge's prayer, which ended, the Khan's stewards cried out aloud *We pray for the Sophi's prosperity, the happy success of his arms, and the Khan's health;* to which the people answered, *Alla, Alla, Alla.* The Khan then returned to the city with the trumpets and timbrels sounding, and the *Turks* heads and colours carried before him, and on his arrival, invited the Ambassadors to dinner; but having that day drank very freely, he was forced to retire before it was over, and the whole company withdrew soon after.

The 22d being *Holy Thursday*, they saw the *Armenians* perform the ceremony of washing the feet, which was done at church, when the Priest washed the right foot of the men, and the left of the women, and afterwards made upon them the sign of the cross, which consecrated butter. This done he was set in a chair, and raised up by twelve men, who kept him in the air with several acclamations, till he had invited them to dinner.

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On the 30th leaving *Scamachie*, they marched to *Pyramaras*, and the next day travelled six leagues over the mountains without seeing a single village, till they took up their quarters at night. On the first of *April*, they advanced over hills and through some vallies, that produce great quantities of millet; and the next day leaving the hills, got into the plain country, and came within a mile of the sea. As they passed along, they saw within the compass of 500 paces, no less than 30 springs of naphtha, a kind of medicinal oil or rather a petroleum. Some of these were white and others black, but there are more of the last than the first. The pits were about fifteen or sixteen feet deep.

On the 3d they travelled only two leagues, over three little rivers to *Schabran*, where the neighbouring mountains are inhabited by a people called *Padars*, who live upon rapine, and make their excursions in small troops for 20 leagues round, in order to rob travellers. The *Mehemander* being informed that they had been at *Schabran* to inquire after the Ambassadors strength, advised the retinue to be upon their guard, to keep close together and in sight of the baggage. Having the next day passed four leagues through a pleasant hilly country, they came up with a caravan of *Moscowite* and *Circassian* merchants, who looking upon them as a sure defence against these robbers, seemed extremely glad of their company. Soon after one of the gang appeared at a distance, in order to take a view of them; but twelve *Persians* being sent by the *Mehemander* to apprehend

prehend him, he escaped in the wood, leaving behind him a good ox which he had stolen, and which was presented to the Ambassadors. In the afternoon they passed through the fens within two leagues of *Niasabeth*. On the 5th they travelled eight leagues through one continued forest, and two days after reached the city of *Derbent*, where they were met only by a number of Kifilabachs, the Governor not choosing to leave the castle.

The city of *Derbent*, which is situated in 51° east longitude, and in $41^{\circ} 15'$ north latitude, is a league in length and 450 paces broad, and may properly be called the gate of *Persia* on that side, because it reaches exactly from the foot of the mountains to the sea shore, where the waves sometimes beat over the walls. The modern *Persians* assert, that its castle and wall on the south side were built by *Alexander* the Great. These are near five feet thick, of a great height, and appear at a distance as if built with freestone, though they are only formed of muscle shells, and pieces of freestone beaten to powder, and moulded like brick; but lime has cemented this substance to such a degree of hardness that no marble is comparable to it. The castle, which is the ordinary residence of the Governor, is built upon the top of a mountain, and furnished with a garrison of 500 men who keep constant guard. The most populous quarter of this city is at the foot of the mountain; but the lower town, which was formerly inhabited by the *Greeks*, is mostly converted into gardens.

All the neighbouring coast is one entire rock, and the walls on that side are so broad that a waggon may be easily driven upon them.

The adjacent mountain is full of wood, notwithstanding which are still to be seen the ruins of a wall, extending above 50 leagues in length, and is said to have anciently reached from the *Caspian* to the *Euxine* seas. In several places it still appears five or six feet high from the ground, in others two or three, and in some places there are no remains of it left. On the adjacent hills are also the ruins of many ancient castles, two of which remain intire, and have garrisons for their defence, as have also several wooden redoubts, built in certain avenues.

On one side of the city are five or 6000 tombs covered with grave stones, which exceed the ordinary stature of men, and have some *Arabic* inscriptions upon them. It is said that *Kassan* King of *Media*, here engaging the *Daghestan Tartars*, was routed, and afterwards ordered these tombs to be made for his officers slain in the battle. Near the sea shore are 40 tombs much larger than the former, encompassed with a very high wall; these are said to be the tombs of some of his Lords and holy men, and both the *Persians* and *Tartars* perform their devotion in these sepulchres.

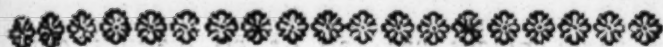
The inhabitants of *Derbent* are all *Mahometans*, except a few *Jews*, who are said to be of the tribe of *Benjamin*. It is a place of no trade and both the soldiers and inhabitants being insolent uncivilized people, the *Mehemander* desired

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desired the Ambassadors to be upon their guard. Therefore to remove all opportunities of quarrelling, strict orders were given to the retinue not to give the least offence to any of the soldiers or inhabitants, and to be careful not to intermeddle in their quarrels: and though the Khan of *Farku*, who had paid the Ambassadors a visit in their first passage that way, offered to conduct them safely through the *Tartars* of *Daghestan*, yet the Ambassadors, considering that he himself was a *Daghestan Tartar*, sent him word, that they would not give him any trouble, and immediately ordered all the arms to be examined, when they were found to consist of 52 musquets and fuzees, 19 cases of pistols, two brass guns, and four murdering pieces.

At length they got every thing in readiness for their departure, and as there was no probability of their obtaining bread for some time, every man had four days allowance delivered to him; but on the 13th, just as they were ready to set forward, they were informed that the Governor had caused the city gates to be shut, and he being asked by the *Mehemander* his reason for so doing, answered, that having received intelligence that one *Osmyr* a *Tartar* Prince near *Derbent*, intended to attack them in their way, he being answerable for their safety to the *Sophi*, could not suffer them to depart without a convoy, which not being ready, he desired they would defer their departure till the next day. This they were sen-

sible was no more than an excuse, and though they were not desirous of this convoy, they thanked him for his care, only desiring leave to go out of the city, where they would wait for the convoy, which being readily granted, they pitched their tents at about a mile's distance, near a fine vineyard upon the bank of a small river, that is the common boundary between the *Persian* dominions and those of the *Daghestan Tartars*.



CHAP. XII.

They leave Derbent without a Convoy. A Description of the Daghestan Tartars, who are affronted by the Ambassador Brugman. The Vexations they meet with at Tarkin the Capital, and the dreadful Apprehensions they are under of being attacked by those, and other Tartarian Nations. They at length arrive at the Town of Andre, where they are kindly entertained. They leave that City and enter Circassia, where they see many Serpents and a peculiar kind of Field-Mice. They arrive at Terki; proceed through a desolate Forest to Astrachan; arrive at Moscow, and leaving that City, return to Gottorp.

THEY staid the next morning till the sun had risen three hours, for the convoy promised them by the Governor; but none appearing, they proceeded on their journey. Their three Lieutenants, with the soldiers under their command, marched in the van; after them came a field piece, and the four murdering pieces; then the baggage, and the Ambassador *Crusius*; and these were followed by another field-piece, by the Ambassador *Brugman* and the rest of the retinue. In this order they entered the country of *Daghestan*.

The *Daghestan Tartars* dwell among the mountains and in the plains at their foot, which in some places are 20 or 30 leagues distant from the *Caspian* sea, and these plains extend along the coast to the north as far as *Terki*, comprehending a tract of 40 leagues. The complexion of these *Tartars* is a dark yellow inclining to black. They have very disagreeable faces, but have strong limbs, and their black hair falls round their shoulders. Their garments are a grey or black close coat, of coarse cloth, over which they wear a cloak of the same stuff, and sometimes of sheep-skin. They have square caps patched together with cloth of several colours, and their shoes are of sheep-skin or horse's hide, and are made of one piece sewed together at the instep or at the sides; and they are armed with scymeters, bows, arrows and javelins. They live chiefly upon their cattle, and the managment of which intirely depends upon the women, the men's profession being to rob and steal: they even attack all they meet, without being afraid either of the *Persians* or *Moscovites*, on account of their retreating places among the mountains; so that the caravans, if not strong enough to encounter them, must proceed by sea. They are not governed by one single person, but each city with its territories has its peculiar Lord; who is not absolute, but shares the government with the other Lords. He is called the *Schemkal*, and upon his death the *Mursas* or Lords of the country meet, and being sat down in a circle, the priest of the place throws a golden

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den apple into it, and he who is first touched by it, is the Schemkal.

Having travelled five leagues through several villages and fertile fields, they fortified themselves with their baggage, and placed sentinels to prevent being surprized. The next day they travelled six leagues through a hilly country; entered the lordship of *Boinack*, and fixed their quarters near a village of the same name, on the ascent of a hill, which being inaccessible to the sea side, they took care to guard their quarters with their baggage, placed in the form of a crescent. The Lord of this country is not very powerful, but extremely wealthy in cattle. Here the Ambassador *Brugman*, being vexed at the inhabitants standing to stare at them, would have had some firelocks without ball discharged to make them keep off, and was highly incensed at the men who had the prudence not to execute his command. These barbarians, who did not want courage, were highly offended at the marks he shewed of dislike, and told the people in plain terms, that they, and not the Ambassadors were masters of the country; that they were in no great fear either of the *Sophi of Persia*, or the *Czar of Moscow*, and that they could easily make these strangers repent their haughtiness. They even refused to allow them to fetch water, without paying for it, but finding that the well was within reach of the cannon, they did not think fit to dispute that point any longer with them. The Schemkal also sent them word the same night, that they should not stir thence

till he had visited their baggage ; but the Ambassadors answering, that they were not merchants but Ambassadors, and as such would maintain their prerogative, they heard no more of him.

On the 16th they sat out early in the morning, and saw several small troops of *Tartari*, sometimes before and sometimes behind them; but after a journey of seven leagues, they pitched their tents near the city of *Tarku* within a league of the sea. The Khan being sick he sent his brother and three other persons of distinction to compliment them on their arrival ; in return for which they sent him their physician, who succeeded so well in the cure, that the Khan returned him his thanks for this favour.

Tarku, the metropolis of all *Daghestan*, is inclosed within the mountains by steep rocks, which are so covered with shells of the size of a walnut, that they seem at a distance to consist of nothing else ; and though the rock is as hard as flint, yet it affords very good pasture on its top, and many fine springs that furnish the city with fresh water. *Tarku* is without walls, and contains about a 1000 houses built after the *Persian* manner, but not so well. The men are here very savage and barbarous, but their married women and maids are pretty well civilized, and do not live under the same restraint as those of *Persia*.

Though the Khan, whose name was *Surcheu*, had almost complimented them into a good opinion of his sincerity, they were soon convinced

vinced that they were never in greater danger. They would fain have persuaded their Mehemander to have proceeded with them to *Terki*.; but he excused himself, by alledging, that he had exprefs orders to conduēt them only to *Tarku*, and while they were in treaty with the camel drivers to carry their baggage thither, he, without their knowledge, returned back in the night, and took them with him. The surprize of this sudden departure was not a little increased by what they were told by two *Moscovite* women, who had married *Tartars*, and who informed them that those of *Osmyn Boinack*, had sent word to *Surchou Khan*, that the Ambassadors had passed their country, and that instead of paying the duties for their merchandize and baggage, they had the insolence to threaten them, and therefore they were resolved to be revenged, by killing all the old men, and making the rest slaves. Upon hearing this news, and observing that not the least care was taken for their departnre, and also, that messengers were constantly passing between these *Tartarian* chiefs; the Ambassadors summoned a council, consisting of all the principal persons of the retinue, to consult what was best to be done in this extremity. At this juncture some could not forbear reflecting on the Ambassador *Brugman's* conduct, in exasperating the people; but as this afforded them no relief, it was resolved, as there were no hopes of escape, to sell their lives as dear as possible, rather than fall into the hands of these barbarians. Indeed, they afterwards found that these.

these chiefs were actually concerting measures to attack them, which they would have done, had not the Schemkal, thinking they had vast treasure along with them, flattered himself with the hopes of getting the whole booty himself; for this purpose he sent to let them know that he would have them take their way over the bridge of boats above the city where he resided, and that if they chose any other way, he must look upon them as enemies. The messenger had no sooner concluded, but he was going away without expecting an answer, when the *Moscovite* Envoy boldly seizing him by the arm cried, " Friend, tell the Schemkal it is not his business to direct the way we are to take, which we shall chuse at our own pleasure. Perhaps it may not be difficult for him to cut off a handful of men; but let him know that the Czar my Master, whose honour lies at stake, will take a most dreadful revenge."

This bold answer made the *Tartars* change their resolutions; even four of their Princes now paid the Ambassadors a visit, in their tent, and staid dinner with them, and these were followed by Prince *Osmyn's* brother, and the Daruga of *Tarku*, who frankly told them, that they ought not to rely upon the Khan's promises, 'till they had made him their friend by giving him a present. They accordingly sent him a pair of gold bracelets, a pistol, a fuzee, a barrel of powder, two pieces of *Persian* sattin, and some spices, which put him in so good a humour, that he not only promised

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the Ambassadors to let them have for their money, whatever they wanted; but invited them and four of their retinue to dinner, and entertained them with eight dishes of mutton, curds, whittings, and rice. Their drink was water in glasses, and afterwards brandy in silver cups. After dinner the Khan by his own desire, was entertained three hours with their music, after which meat was brought in again, and one of the carvers having minced it, served it up by handfuls while they were obliged to shew no signs of disgust. They were also invited to several other entertainments.

On the 23d of *April*, the waggons for their baggage being got ready and loaded, *Surchou Khan* sent to let them know, that he had received intelligence that the *Schemkal Sultan Mahmud* lay in ambush to intercept their passage, and that therefore he could not permit them to depart. The same evening 20 *Tartarian* horsemen well armed, pitched their tents near them, and being asked what brought them thither, replied, they had been sent by Prince *Osmyn* to the *Schemkal*, to inform him, that the Ambassadors being friends to the *Sophi of Persia* and the *Czar of Moscow*, he had let them pass unmolested, without paying any duties, and desired him to do so too, which the *Schemkal* had promised. These *Tartars* departed early the next morning, and soon after two messengers came from the *Schemkal* to know the reason why the Ambassadors did not proceed on their journey, and to promise them all imaginable assistance, provided they took the way

way he had directed. These were no sooner gone, than *Surchou* Khan came in person, to pay the Ambassadors a visit, and let them know, that every thing was ready for their journey; but that knowing the *Schemkal* better than they did, he would advise them to stay eight days longer, in which time he hoped to see the *Persian* Ambassador there, and he would then provide a sufficient convoy. These insinuations threw them into a greater perplexity than ever, not knowing whom they had to trust. In this extremity, they had recourse to the Governor of *Terki*, whom they desired to send them a convoy of *Strelitzers*; but this he absolutely refused. In the mean while, some *Armenian* merchants, who had staid in hopes of going in their company, suddenly retired into the city upon a rumour that 200 *Tartars* intended to attack the Ambassadors. To add to their affliction, the continual rains had penetrated through their tents and cloaks, and prevented their making any fires: and they durst not venture themselves in the *Tartarian* huts, for fear of being seized and made slaves. These and other circumstances rendered their condition extremely deplorable, not knowing what resolution they had to take. At length, they sent a messenger to the *Schemkal* to desire a passage, who returned the next day with four *Tartars*, and brought them word that the *Schemkal* was much surprized at the character *Surchou* Khan had unjustly given of him: that he offered them all his interest and service to forward them in their journey, and as a proof

of his sincerity would send them three of the principal men in his dominions, as hostages for their passing safely throught his territories. Upon these assurances they left *Tarku* on the 12th of *May*, and travelled two leagues thro' a plain, but barren country, to a rivulet that parts the territories of the Prince of *Tarku*, and *Schemkal Sultan Mahmud*, where they were forced to be contented with bread and muddy water for their supper.

On the 14th, they proceeded to the river *Koifu*, which is deep and rapid; near it the town of *Andre* is situated upon the side of a hill, and is the ordinary residence of the *Schemkal*. Over the river they and all their baggage, carried in 70 waggons, were conveyed by the *Tartars* in boats, two of which were joined together, and a hurdle laid over them, the expence of the whole being 40 crowns. Soon after the *Schemkal* with his brother, and a train of 50 persons on horseback, came to pay them a visit: he was about 36 years of age, very robust, and of an agreeable countenance. He had a garment of green sattin, over which he wore a cloak of coarse cloth. His arms, as well as those of his company, were a scymeter, bow and arrows. He brought along with him some sheep and lambs, and a large cauldron full of sturgeon, boiled in salt and water, with fresh butter and sorrel for sauce; a dish, which in their present circumstances, seemed more agreeable, than all the delicacies of *Persia*. They entertained him with their music, the discharge of their artillery, and with drinking brandy for

for two hours, when being got half drunk he retired, but returned soon after, and the Ambassadors presented him with a pair of gold bracelets, a silver cup, a scarlet cloak lined with fur, a case of pistols, a sword, a barrel of powder, some *Persian* silk stuffs, and some goatskin dressed into leather. He was so pleased with the cloak that he put it on upon the spot, and presented his own to the Ambassador *Brugman*, who had the complaisance to flatter him by saying, that at so great a distance, they had but an imperfect idea of these parts, and therefore had not provided themselves with presents suitable to his greatness; but that having now established a free commerce with *Persia*, they would make ample amends for it the next time they came that way, when they would bring full instructions to enter into a perpetual league with him, which he did not doubt would turn to their mutual advantage. This flattery had such an effect, that the Schemkal got horses and carriages for them, at a very reasonable rate, and even conducted them with 50 horse, through a thick wood, and afterwards took his leave in a very obliging manner.

On the 18th they entered *Circassia*, which though mostly inhabited by *Pagans* and *Mabometan Tartars*, yet it was no small satisfaction to the Ambassadors and their retinue, to find themselves in a country under the jurisdiction of a *Christian Prince*. However, provisions, and particularly meat, were here so scarce, that they could hardly obtain it for their money, so that they paid above 30 shillings for a sheep.

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The next day they pitched their tents in a plain country full of reeds, near a well, the water of which was so muddy and stinking, that the beasts would not touch it, and they here found the ground full of holes made by serpents. The following day they continued their journey over a barren soil, four leagues to the city of *Terki*, seeing in the way many serpents of the thickness of a man's arm, and six feet in length, sporting in the sun, and near *Terki* a peculiar kind of field-mice, called by the *Arabians* *Jeruiah*. They are nearly as big as a squirrel, and not unlike it in shape, except their being of a darker colour, and having heads like rats: they have long ears, and the fore feet are shorter than those behind, which renders them unfit for running, but they will leap five or six feet high from the ground, with their tails laid over their backs, which, like those of other mice, are long and without hair. There are vast numbers of them in *Arabia* and about *Babylon*, where they are frequently eaten by the inhabitants. If they get into the houses it is said they will carry all the money they meet with into their nests.

About a mile from *Terki* they were met by the brother of Prince *Mussal*, with a Colonel sent by the *Moscovite* Waywode, to compliment them on their happy arrival, and while lodgings were preparing for them in the city, they were entertained with a collation of gingerbread, mead and brandy. The following day the Ambassadors were treated with four dishes out of the Waywode's kitchen. They sent

their compliments to the Princess *Bika*, Prince *Mussal's* mother, and a few days after paid her a visit in person, dined with her, and entertained her with their music.

On the 21st of *May*, they began to prepare for their departure, and bargained with the waggoners of *Terki*, at a crown for every waggon and two horses, to carry them over the desert, which was 70 leagues, to *Astrachan*; and as they were now joined by many *Persian*, *Turkish*, *Greek*, and *Moscovite* merchants, they had above 200 waggons, each of which carried three or four persons; but their allowance for so long a journey was very slender; for it only consisted of some hard biscuit, a loaf of mouldy brown bread, and half a dried stinking salmon, for each man in the retinue. They did not even provide drink, because the Ambassador *Brugman* would not be at the expence of hiring a waggon to carry it, and though they were not then very solicitous about it, they had soon sufficient reason to repent of this ill conduct. For in that dreadful desert they travelled eleven days, without seeing so much as a city or village, or even a hill, tree, or bird, or any river, but the *Kifilar*, and one small brook of fresh water; the whole being a vast sandy plain, which here and there produced a little grass and some standing pools of salt and stinking water. They were therefore greatly afflicted with heat, thirst, gnats, wasps, and other insects. However at length they took up their quarters upon the banks of the *Volga*, opposite to *Astrachan*, where many of the people

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prompted by thirst, ran up to their knees in the river to drink. Immediately some of their friends came from *Astrachan* to bid them welcome, and fresh provisions being brought them at the same time, they staid all the day near the river, to give leisure to the Governor to provide them lodgings.

On the 15th of *June*, they passed the river, and had their quarters appointed them in a large storehouse without the city, near the river side, where they found a great quantity of provisions sent thither by the Duke of *Holstein's* factor at *Moscow*; but the Ambassador *Brugman* having ordered all the baggage to be shut up in one room, some of the retinue were so exasperated, that they forced open the doors, and took away their chests in spite of the sentinel that stood guard.

The Ambassadors during their residence in this city, sent part of their retinue with some horses to *Moscow* by land, and then bought two boats 60 feet long and 15 broad, and hired 30 watermen to row them to *Casan*. A few days before their departure, some *Moscowite* Strelitzers brought the Ambassadors two girls, one of ten, and the other of seven years of age, in order to sell them. The first was a daughter of a *Tartar* of *Trecos*, and had been made prisoner by the *Cossacks* at the taking of *Azoph*, and the latter had been stolen not far from *Astrachan*, and being very young, they had put her naked in a bag. The Ambassador *Brugman* purchased them both, one for 25, and the other for 16 crowns, and after his return

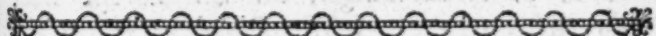
into *Holstein* presented them to the Dukes, who had them instructed and baptized.

On the 7th of *September*, the Ambassadors divided their retinue, and each of them embarking in his own boat upon the *Volga*, sailed for *Casan*, where they staid five weeks, 'till the ice was ready to bear. On the 13th, they proceeded on their journey in 60 sledges, and on the 2d of *January* made their public entry into *Moscow*, each of the Ambassadors riding in a rich sledge lined with crimson velvet, and adorned with *Persian* carpets. The chief of their retinue being mounted on 12 white horses out of the Czar's stables.

On the 18th the Ambassadors had their first private audience, and having a few days after obtained their audience of leave from the Czar, proceeded towards *Germany*, and arrived at *Gottorp* on the first of *August*, which put a period to their travels.



THE
TRAVELS
OF
Mr. JONAS HANWAY, Merchant,
THROUGH
RUSSIA into PERSIA;
AND BACK THROUGH
RUSSIA, GERMANY, and HOLLAND.



CHAP. I.

Mr. Hanway sails to Riga, from whence he proceeds by Land by the Way of Dorpt and Narva, to Peterburgh.

MR. Elton, an *English* gentleman, bred to the sea, having agreed with the court of *Persia*, about settling a trade through *Russia* into that empire, and afterwards entering into the service of *Nadir Shah*, for whom he was to build ships in the *European* manner; the *English* factors belonging to the *Russia* company, grew uneasy at the apprehensions of the offence that

might be taken by the *Russian* court. About this time Mr. *Hanway*, a gentleman equally distinguished by his piety, humanity, and good sense, being well acquainted with the nature of that trade, accepted of the offer of becoming partner with a factor at *Petersburgh*, and being desirous of seeing *Persia*, a country so famous for great and memorable events, both in ancient and modern history, resolved to endeavour to complete the establishment of a trade, which was the object of the sanguine hopes of the most considerable of our merchants. This may serve as an introduction to his travels, which we shall give in as concise a manner as possible.

In *April*, 1743, this gentleman embarked in the river *Thames* on board an *English* ship bound for *Riga*, and in *May* entered the *Sound*. This strait is about two *English* miles broad, and the castle of *Kronenburgh*, on the *Danish* side, guards the entrance, while *Elsinburg* is on the opposite side on the *Swedish* continent. The duty paid to the *Danes* on entering the *Sound*, has varied at different periods of time. The castle of *Kronenburgh*, which is mounted with large cannon, projects into the water, and is so far detached from the town of *Elsinour*, as to enjoy an open and delightful prospect, and by its buildings, extent, and verdure within the walls, is rendered an agreeable place. *Elsinour* is a neat little town about 20 miles from *Copenhagen*; it is watered by a spring in the east part of it, and the streets being in some places lined with trees, have an agreeable effect.

effect. Here the consuls of *England*, *France*, *Holland* and *Sweden* reside; and the neighbourhood of the *Swedes* makes the *Danish* garrison strict in the examination of all who come into the town. From *Elfsineur* he sailed by *Copenhagen*, where the royal palace forms a magnificent prospect from the sea. He soon after descried the coast of *Courland*, which had a sandy and inhospitable appearance; and near the end of *May* arrived in the bay of *Riga*. The *Baltic*, which on his entrance into it, was extremely cold, and in the middle of *May* is frequently covered with ice, was now remarkably pleasant, and it is not easy to conceive how much the scene was changed for the better.

Mr. *Hanway*, on his landing, was carried as a prisoner to the castle of *Dwenamund*, where he was kept above an hour, in the company of common soldiers and under-secretaries; though he had letters of recommendation from the *Russian* Minister at the court of *London*, to the Great Chancellor of *Russia*; but they made great difficulties on the want of a passport, which it is not usual to bring from *England*; but the master of the ship had no sooner presented the ordinary compliment, than they were received by the officer on duty, as the friends of his sovereign, and from thence went by land about half a day's journey to *Riga*, where our Author arrived on the 20th of *May*, and then found the weather as hot as ever he had felt it, though he had lived many years in *Portugal*: for the sun leaving the horizon only three

three or four hours, and its reflection continuing a great part of that time, neither the earth nor the air has time to become temperate.

Mr. *Hanway* was received at *Riga* with the greatest kindness by the *British* factors; but though he produced the most indisputable credentials, he was obliged to wait in that city seventeen days as a state-prisoner; for there being then a war between *Russia* and *Sweden*, the Governor had received orders, that no person should proceed from thence without express leave from the court then residing at *Petersburgh*. This time he spent as agreeably as a garrison and its confines would permit; but was not a little incommoded by the extreme heat of the weather. He was there assured by people of undoubted veracity, that after the melting of the snow, the earth being impregnated with the nitre it contains, sometimes brings to maturity, in six weeks, the rye that has lain the ground during the winter; and that wheat has been sown and reaped within that time.

The city of *Riga* was built about the year 1190, when this country first received the *Christian* religion. It is the metropolis of *Livonia*, and is situated in 57° . north latitude, on the north-east side of the *Dwena*, which runs into the gulph of *Riga*. It was taken from the *Swedes* by *Peter* the Great in 1713; but the magistracy preserve the civil power, and their antient immunities; while the burghers have the sole right of buying of the *Polish* and *Russian*

Russian merchants; consequently the *English* factors, and other foreigners, can only buy of the burghers. There is a provincial court for the affairs of the province, considered as distinct from the city, and besides the corporation of burghers, which has solely the management of the city affairs, the crown has a court under the *Russian* laws, which takes cognizance of the assessments for quartering of soldiers, and other affairs relating to the government.

The *Dwena* is generally frozen about the end of *November*, and open again near the middle of *March*; so that it has the advantage of *Peterburgh*, where the *Neva* is closed about six weeks longer. When the ice breaks up, it frequently comes down in such large pieces, as to remove points of land, and form banks, that sometimes remain for several years. On this account no standing bridge can be built over the river; and there is only one of rafts and boards during the summer season; so that people walk even with the surface of the water.

The chief commodities here are masts, timber, flax and hemp, great part of which is brought from the *Polish Ukraine*. Near 500 ships have been annually loaded at *Riga*, of which 300 were from the *United Provinces*: but the number of *Dutch* ships at this port have lately decreased.

The houses are built with steep roofs, for the better carrying off the water, which is very penetrating on the melting of the snow: where-
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in they have the advantage of the *Russians*, who have still greater occasion to provide against the like inconvenience. The cellars are used as warehouses for flax and other goods; and the entrance or first apartment in most houses is the coach-house, through which you must pass to the parlour and dining-room. The houses are seldom above two stories high, and the streets are narrow. The language of the people of *Riga* is *German*; but the peasants in its neighbourhood, and other parts of *Livonia*, speak *High Dutch*, a dialect entirely different from the *German*.

Mr. *Hanway* having at length procured a passport, he provided himself with a sleeping waggon, which is made of leather, resembling a cradle, and hung upon braces, and in this manner rode post to *Petersburgh*; in this journey he found the horses bad, but the stages were short, and the inns clean.

Having passed through several inconsiderable places, he arrived at *Dorpt*, which is about 230 wersts from *Riga*, and stands in a plain watered by the river *Embeck*, which runs into the lake *Peipus*. The country on the side towards *Riga*, presents a most delightful prospect; and the trade of the towns consists mostly in corn and flax. *Dorpt* resembles a superb heap of ruins, among which are the remains of a castle which *Peter* the Great took from the *Swedes* in 1704, and upon this occasion great part of the town was destroyed by fire. From hence the country is cleared of wood, and well inhabited.

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Mr. *Harway* now travelled along the banks of the lake *Peipus*, which is 120 wersts long and 60 broad, having a communication with the lake *Pscow* or *Pleskow*, the borders of which are famous for producing flax. From thence he proceeded through several places to *Narva*, the capital of *Estonia*. This city is not large, but stands on a rising ground, and is clean and well fortified. Its trade consists mostly in flax and timber. Two wersts above the town is a cataract in the river *Narva*, at which they are obliged to unload the barks. This city is remarkable for the great defeat which the *Russians* met with in the year 1700, when 100,000 of them fled before a handful of *Swedes*. From this place he travelled 146 wersts to *Petersburgh*, the whole distance between *Narva* and that city being 549 wersts, or 398 miles.



C H A P. II.

The Author offers his Service to go into Persia; takes the Charge of a Caravan of Woollen Goods designed for that Empire. The Country described through which he passes; with a Description of Valдай and Twere; of the great Road begun by Peter the Great; and of the City of Moscow.

OUR Author arrived at *Petersburgh* on the 10th of *June*, and was extremely pleased to find a city so open, airy, and in many places so regularly built with good houses in the *Italian* taste.

Our readers may remember, that Mr. *Hanway* had formed the design of visiting *Persia*, should any convenient opportunity offer. Several intimations of the distressed condition of that country, indeed made some impression on him; but did not abate his curiosity. His partner, and the other factors, were soon alarmed at the complaints of the *Russian* court against Mr. *Elton*; and it being resolved that one of them should go into *Persia*, Mr. *Hanway* offered his service, which was accepted. Having at length obtained a passport from the court of *Russia*, he provided a sleeping waggon, another for his clerk, and a third for his baggage, also a *Russian* menial servant, a *Tartar* boy, and a soldier: then receiving such instruc-

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sons as were necessary from the factors who were interested in this new commerce, he took upon him the charge of a caravan of thirty-seven bales of *English* cloth, and prepared for his journey.

The caravan of cloth, consisting of twenty loads, set out on the first of *September*, and on the 10th Mr. *Hanway* followed it. He had an order for nine post horses, and was to pay a farthing each, for every werst; but being resolved to make all possible speed, he hired peasants horses, which are better, and double the expence. In two days he reached the river *Volga*, when the ferry-man finding he was a merchant, began to be insolent; for the *Russian* boors have a contemptible notion of all traders: the delay and impertinence to which he was exposed, obliged his soldier to exercise his cane, which soon brought the fellow to reason, and made him perform his office. On the 13th, the darkness of the night, with the wind and rain, together with the badness of the road, and one of the carriages being stuck in a bog, obliged our Author and his attendants to sleep in their waggons in the open fields, and the next day they reached *Baanitz*, which is near *Novogorod*, and is 230 werst from *Petersburgh*. The weather was now mild, the road was open and pleasant, and provisions so cheap, that good beef might be bought for the value of three farthings a pound, mutton and pork in proportion, and bread at about one sixth part of its usual value in *England*.

On the 15th, they arrived at *Valdai*, which is a considerable monastery. The inhabitants are mostly *Poles*, brought here as prisoners in former wars; but the distinction is now almost lost. The dress of the women is neater, and their persons handsomer than the generality of the *Russian* peasants; but their excessive laughter, and painting their faces; greatly diminish their external charms. The country is hilly and affords many pleasant prospects; and Mr *Hanway* observes, that *Venus* seems to have made this her particular residence, from the many amorous songs admired by the *Russians* in relation to the scenes of delight this place affords; though the most refined parts of love are hardly to be found among the present inhabitants. The next day our Author got to *Twere*, where he came up with his caravan. Great complaints were made by the carriers of the badness of the roads, which encreased his fears of not reaching *Persia* that year; therefore, instead of one horse to each load, he ordered two, and promised the carriers a handsome present, on condition of their exerting themselves to the utmost of their power.

In *Russia*, carriages for merchandize are nine or ten feet long, and two or three feet broad; they are principally composed of two strong poles, supported by four slight wheels of nearly an equal size, and about the height of the fore wheels of our coaches; many of them have wheels of a single piece of wood, and some are not shod with iron. These carriages are drawn

drawn only by one horse. The bales are laid on a bed of thick mat, and over them are usually placed thick mats two or three times double, and an upper covering of raw cow-hides.

Twere is a very ancient city, situated on the *Twersa*, which runs into the *Volga*. This place is a rendezvous for merchants who trade to the towns on the banks of the last-mentioned river; yet during the greatest part of the year the *Twersa* is not twenty inches deep; but in the months of *April* and *May*, it is so swelled by the melting of the snow, that the water rises ten or eleven feet. Large flat-bottom'd vessels of 200 tons take this opportunity of passing to and from *Astrachan*, and other places; the trade to *Persia* is sometimes carried on by the same channel. There are brought here great quantities of caviare, fish, and rock-salt, and these vessels carry back corn, meal, all kind of groceries, and bale goods.

On the 19th, Mr. *Hanway* arrived at *Kiln*, a very agreeable place, near a small branch of the river *Kliazma*, and passing through several small villages, the next day arrived at *Moscow*, the metropolis of the *Russian* empire.

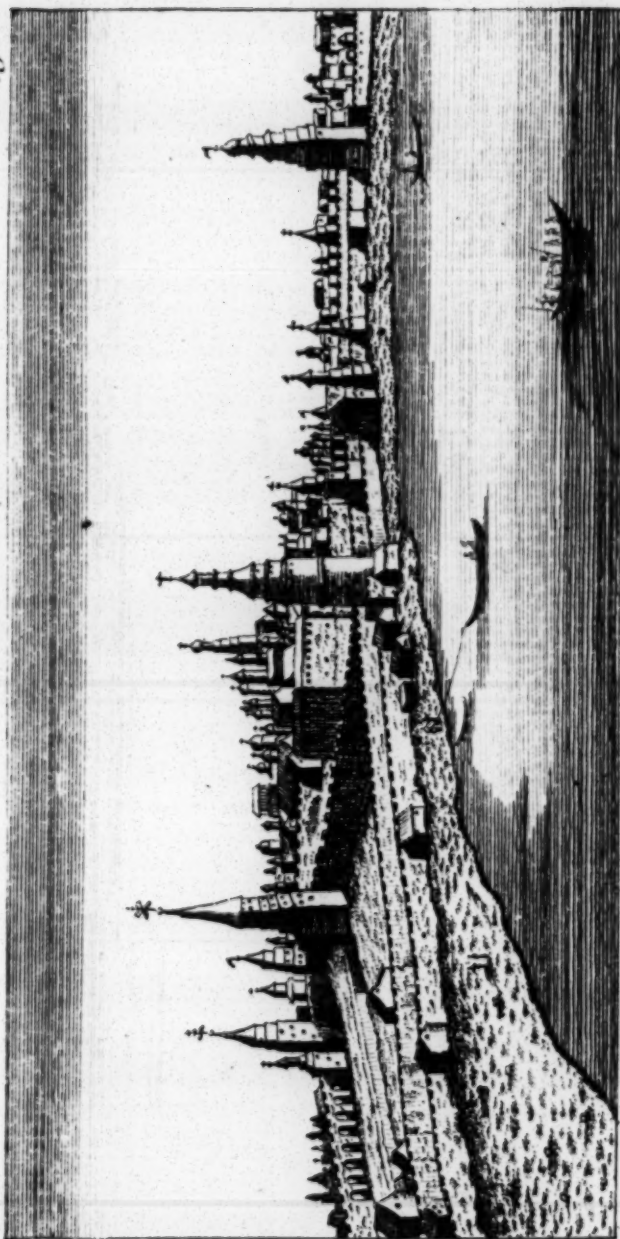
Among other great works of *Peter I.* he caused a road to be cut from *Petersburgh*, that was to extend the whole distance of 734 wersts, or 487 *English* miles in a direct line; but it is not entirely compleated, nor is the part performed exactly executed on the original plan. Vast forests of fir, birch, and other trees, were cut through, and a passage made over

morasses, till then thought impassable. Immense quantities of timber where hewn down, ditches were made and the earth being thrown up and levelled, strait firs with their surfaces made plain, were laid close to each other upon it. These are supported by a foundation of the same kind of timber, composed of a row of trees on each side secured by cross timbers. This road of timber is carried according as the land requires it, for about 150 wersts, and as Mr. *Hanway* calculated, contains two million one hundred thousand trees; besides which there are on the sides of the road great quantities of timber that have never been used.

Moscow is in the latitude of $55^{\circ}.40'$. and is built somewhat after the Eastern manner, having few regular streets, and a great number of houses with gardens. It is about sixteen *English* miles in circumference, the river *Moskwa* runs through it, and making many windings, adds a very striking beauty to the city; but in summer it is in many places shallow and unnavigable. Several eminences, interspersed with groves, gardens, and lawns, form the most delightful prospect; but the dreadful fires that have laid waste the city have hardly left houses sufficient to accommodate the Empress's retinue, without distressing the people. The imperial palace in the city is remarkable for scarce any thing but having 30 chapels and a very lofty hanging garden; but great part of it appears rather like a prison than a royal palace. The number of churches and chapels in *Moscow* is hardly credible.

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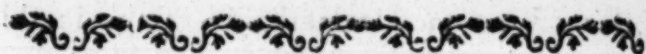
credible, they are said to be above 1800, but many of them are very mean, and most of the pictures were done when the art of painting was in its infancy.

One of the most remarkable things in this city is the great bell, which is of a stupendous size, and affords a surprizing proof of the folly of those who caused it to be made; but the *Russians* have for time immemorial, been extremely fond of great bells. This is 443,772 pounds weight, and was cast in the reign of the late Empress *Anne*. But the beam on which it hung being burnt, it fell, and a large piece is broke out of it.

Moscow being in the heart of the empire, is the residence of those of the nobility who are not obliged to follow the court, and is particularly inhabited by the chief merchants and manufacturers. It would be amazing, that the dreadful fires that have here spread such devastation through that city, have not prevented building with wood, did not the cheapness of that kind of building, and the poverty of many of the inhabitants, render it in a manner necessary. However, by a late decree of the *Russian* senate, wood houses are limited to a certain quarter of the city, and in all other places they are to be built with brick and stone.

The *Russians* in general preserve a great share of the simplicity of their forefathers : the modern refinements, which in some countries have rendered it unpolite for a son to call his father by that endearing name, is little known among them ; and here in the politest correspondences

respondences of a man's christian name, with that of his father's, as *John* the son of *Thomas*, is esteemed the most respectful address.



C H A P III.

The Author leaves Moscow, and pursues his journey; he enters Tartary describes the Manners of the Cossacks, and arrives at Zaritzen on the Banks of the Volga. Remarks on the Calmuck Tartars. Of the Pirates who infest the Volga. The Vessels used on that River, and the Author's Voyage down it to Astrachan.

ON the 24th of September, having provided such provisions as were thought necessary, Mr. Hanway left Moscow, and passed through several villages near the western banks of the Occa. The country is hilly, but abounds in arable land, and is adorned with a beautiful variety of groves. The next day he arrived at Kolunna, 80 wrosts from Moscow, which makes a better appearance than most cities in that part of the world; for it has many stone and brick buildings, and a good wall; it has likewise several turrets of a very irregular figure, but being covered with gilded tin they make a good appearance.

After passing the Occa, he still found the country very pleasant. The horses were now feeding

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Being advanced on the 26th to *Perislawl Riazanskoi*, he found himself in another climate; for the harvest was not yet gathered in. The roads are for the most part very good; the country has little wood, but is delightfully watered; but the people are extremely poor, as appears by the houses of the peasants that are covered with straw, in a manner that shews even their ignorance of thatching. Their language and dress are different from those of the more northern *Russians*. Mr. *Hanway* was surprized to behold so fine a country, at no more than 200 wersts from the metropolis, make such an appearance of indigence; but the Lords are such bad œconomists, that they defeat their own designs, and before the peasants feel the sweets of their labour, not only refuse to assist them, but in a great measure obstruct their industry. He was now in an open fertile country; but the people were so indigent, that many of their cottages consisted only of one room, about five or six yards square, which often contained six or eight persons of both sexes; but the inhabitants are neither numerous nor very reserved with regard to the ordinary consequences of such cohabitations.

Having travelled 300 wersts from *Kolamna*, he arrived at *Koslowe*, a city fortified with a wall of earth, which served to secure it from the invasions of the *Tartars*.

On the first of *October*, Mr. *Hanway* entered the *Step*. The inhabitants who are nearest to it, often improve their land by burning the grass which grows to a great length, and where it is not burnt, they procure provender for their cattle during the winter season, by scraping away the snow, and suffering them to feed on the half perished grass: Here he overtook a caravan of forty loads of *European* goods belonging to *Armenian* merchants. On the 2d, he arrived at *Novochoperskaja*, the proper boundary of *Russia* on the river *Choper*, which falls into the *Don*. This is the *Russian* frontier towards the *Don Cossacks*, and is fortified with pallisades, dry moats, and a rampart, on which some small pieces of cannon are mounted: it is almost surrounded by a grove of oaks. The adjacent country is very delightful, and the roads exceeding good. He now passed through several *Cossack* towns, where he found the people clean and well clothed: the women are gay and comely; they adorn their heads with a cap rising about eight inches from their foreheads, with two points in the form of a crescent, and their shifts are ornamented with red crosses: the unmarried women wear their hair platted behind in the *Russian* manner.

The *Cossacks* are a species of the *Tartars*; the name signifies free-booters; but they are here civilized, and being indulged by the *Russian* government, continue faithful, and are ready, when called upon, to attend the *Russian* army: each man usually brings with him two horses, and upon these occasions they are well clothed

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and accoutered at their own expence. They receive pay only in time of war when actually employed, and then only six rubles a year, with provision and plunder; yet being exempt from taxes they have no provocation to forsake their masters. They are a gallant and sober people, and some of them are said to possess 300 cows, and 1000 sheep.

For three days Mr. *Hanway* saw little more than land or sky, except some woods and mountains to the eastward, which afforded pleasure in proportion to the absence of other objects. There are prodigious flights of blue pigeons, of which they killed as many as they could consume. At length he and his attendants arrived at *Grigoriskoi*, which forms a kind of peninsula. Here the inhabitants take great quantities of craw-fish, especially in spring, when the flesh is most esteemed; they then pound and mix it in water, on which the eyes sink to the bottom. Quantities of these eyes are sent to *Turky* and other countries, they being used in medicine. The houses, or rather huts of the people, are built of oak plant. They marry very young, and our Author talked with a boy of fifteen, who was engaged to a girl of the same age.

On the 9th in the morning, he arrived under the lines that are thrown up from the *Don*, the antient *Tanais*, to the *Volga*, for the distance of about 50 wersts. The ditch is near sixteen feet deep; but not made entirely square, and there is a bank of earth near twenty feet high, with a strong timber rail towards the top. At
certain

certain distances are placed centry boxes, from which the guard can communicate an alarm to the chief garison at *Zaritzen*, which terminates the line on the western banks of the *Volga*. On this spot *Peter* the Great intended to join the *Don* and the *Volga*; and the canal was actually begun for that purpose. By this means a communication would have been opened with *Turkey*, and the Czar might have attacked that Empire with ships built on the *Volga*; but this undertaking proved very difficult from the hardness of the soil.

The *Kuban Tartars* were once very formidable here; but the river *Kuma*, which discharges itself into the *Caspian* sea, now serves as a barrier to these people, who are kept in awe by the *Russians*; but they had lately made incursions, and carried off the inhabitants of whole villages, with all the cattle. They now only make their appearance, in small parties, which sometimes break through the lines, and carry off horses, that serve them for food as well as for ordinary uses. The sun was yet warm, and the weather delightful. On the plains near *Zaritzen* are fed dromedaries.

Zaritzen is situated in the latitude $47^{\circ}.30'$. 688 miles from *Moscow*, on a high bank of the *Volga*, of which it commands a fine prospect. It is thinly inhabited, and the buildings are mean; but it is defended by a deep ditch, a rampart mounted with cannon, and a garrison of 6000 men.

In a deep valley on the south side is an encampment of *Calmuck Tartars*, who are in friendship

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friendship with the *Russians*, while they awe them by their power. They have the same turn of visage with the *Chinese*; but are fierce and savage. These are a dispersed tribe of those *Mungaliens*, whom the *Chinese* long ago received as their conquerors. They are armed with bows and arrows, they feed on the flesh of horses, camels, dromedaries, and other animals, and eat their entrails even when they die of the foulest distempers. They throw their dead into open fields to be devoured by the dogs, many of which run wild, and some are kept for that purpose: if these bodies are devoured by any number exceeding six, they think honourably of the deceased, otherwise he is thought a disgrace to his relations.

They worship images, which are generally small bits of wood about a palm in length; and the upper part being rounded, is adorned with a rude resemblance of the human features: these figures are dressed up in a few rags. Their supreme deity is *Delli Lama*. In prosperous seasons and fine weather, they caress their ragged gods; but treat them very ill when the contrary happens. The many acts of violence committed by these barbarians, induced the *Russian* government to compel them to dwell on the banks of the *Volga* below *Astrachan*, where they have but little opportunity for robbery and murder, though here also they transgress.

Mr. *Hanway* now employed himself in procuring a proper vessel to convey his goods to *Astrachan*, and found one that was just arrived with 400 sacks of flour. He was extremely shocked.

shocked at seeing on what slight embarkations his friends were obliged to trust their valuable effects in a navigation of a river full of shelves, and trees, which accidentally falling into the water, sink and become as dangerous as rocks.

This vessel, which was the best he could procure, cost him no more than forty rubles, or 10*l*. The decks were only loose pieces of the bark of trees, and it had but few beams, and hardly any pitch or tar had been used about it, instead of which long slips of bark were nailed over the gaping seams, to prevent the loose and bad caulking from falling out; and instead of iron bolts, it had spikes of deal with round heads. The method of keeping these vessels clear of water, is by using a large scoop suspended by a beam over the well-way, and through a scuttle at a proper height the water is thrown with great facility. Though these vessels appeared like so many wrecks, the trade carried on by means of them is very considerable.

Having given the necessary instructions with regard to carrying the goods, he prepared for his own voyage down the *Volga*, by buying two boats, each to be navigated by five watermen, and his own attendants, with the addition of six soldiers for a convoy: for though he had assurances of safety, prudence suggested that he could not gain, but might lose considerably by too much confidence. The *Volga* is frequently infested with pirates who go in gangs of 30, 40, or sometimes 80 persons; they make use of row-boats which carry from
twenty

20 to 30 hands, and furnish themselves with fire-arms. Their general practice is to board immediately; but where they apprehend a brave resistance, they seldom make an attack. Hence few of the *Russian* merchants transport any cargo of value down this river without a convoy. These robbers appear mostly in the spring, when the banks of the *Volga*, being overflowed, they can the more easily escape a pursuit. The soldiers, who are occasionally sent after them, are ordered to take them alive, from the apprehension that allowing them to kill, might prove fatal to the innocent thro' the strong temptations to plunder with which the soldiers are actuated.

The *Armenians* generally fight with great bravery and intrepidity in defence of their property; but the *Bourlacks* who navigate the *Volga*, are so intimidated by these robbers, that they no sooner appear, than they behave like men struck with a panic, and even ascribe to them an irresistible power, derived from an infernal spirit. It was formerly their custom, in these cases, to fall on their faces, as soon as required by the robbers, and to suffer them to plunder at pleasure, not daring to look up, lest it should cost them their lives. The merchant or the master of the vessel, being thus at their mercy, is happy if he escapes with life; for the robbers have seldom any sentiments of humanity for a man of superior rank; but if he boldly attempts to defend himself in hopes of bringing his people to the charge, he may be sure, if conquered, of being barbarously murdered.

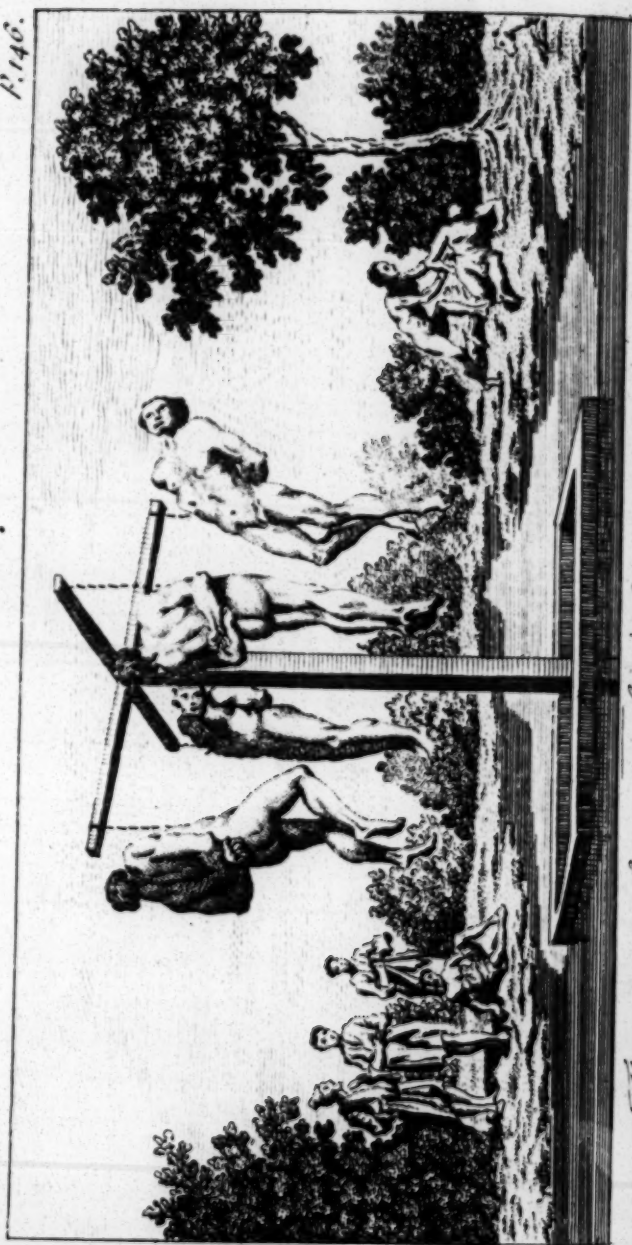
These robbers are accustomed to observe the same conduct on the *Caspian* sea, but much less of late years than formerly.

The punishment of these wretches when taken is not less dreadful than the cruelties they commit. A float is built whereon a gallows is erected, on which is fastened a number of iron hooks, and on these they are hung alive by the ribs. The float is then launched into the stream with labels over their heads, signifying their crime; and orders are given to all the towns and villages on the border of the river, that none on pain of death, shall afford relief to any of these wretches; but put off the float if it runs ashore. Sometimes they are met by their partners in wickedness, who if they have no hopes of their recovery, take them down, otherwise they put an end to their misery by shooting them; but if they are caught in these illegal acts of mercy, they are themselves hung up, without the ceremony of a trial. It is said that one of these miscreants had the good fortune to disengage himself from the hook, and though naked and trembling with pain and loss of blood, he got ashore, when the first object he saw being a poor shepherd, he had the cruelty to beat out his brains with a stone, and then to take his cloaths. These malefactors sometimes hang thus three, four, and sometimes five days alive. The pain generally produces a raging fever, wherein they utter the most horrid imprecations, and implore the relief of water, or other small liquors.

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Before our Author began his voyage, he sent letters to his friends by messengers appointed to attend a box of grapes sent every three days during the season, from *Astrachan* to the Empress's court, and carried by two horses, in the manner of a litter. The grapes at best must be ill worth the expence of being conveyed 1200 *English* miles.

On the 14th of *October*, Mr. *Hanway* put off from shore; the stern part of his boat was covered with matts, so that he could sleep protected from the weather, which now began to be very cold. He took some of the soldiers with him, that if by accidents he should be separated from his goods, he might have some assistance. He was surprized to see the banks of the river marked near twenty feet above the water but was assured, that the river rose in the spring to that height. The next day he saw several water-fowl much larger than swans, which they resembled in their feet and beaks; the *Russians* call them *Dika Baba*, which signifies a wild old woman. They have a very large claw, that will contain a whole fish of a considerable size. They fly very near each other in the form of a semi-circle, not far above the water, and having driven the fish, which are their only food, into the shallows, dart down upon them. The fat of this bird is used by the *Russians* as a cure for aches and bruises.

In the spring the high waters of the *Volga* not only undermine its banks, but sweep away large trees, so that some creeks of the river had hardly

any passage left. The soldiers fed luxuriously at the fisheries for nothing more than thanks. The weather was calm, and the current moderate; in many places the banks are high, and in others there is a flat shore, the breadth being from a mile to a quarter of a mile.

On the 17th, our Author stopped at *Chernoyare*. This is the first town from *Zaritzen*, from which it is distant 200 wersts, and is esteemed half way to *Astrachan*. It is defended by a ditch with some cannon, and chevaux de frize. The inhabitants trade with the *Calmucks*, *Kubans*, and other *Tartars*, in a quarter distinct from the town. The next day, though he was obliged to lie by in the night, he advanced 90 wersts, but not without danger of being drowned; for the boat had no keel, nor any running tackle, and the watermen being extremely unskilful and not able to let the sail fly, it was a singular providence that they were not overset. As he proceeded farther several wrecks appeared on the banks of the river. Great flights of geese and swans were now on the wing, retiring from the approaching severities of this climate, to the warmer regions of *Persia*.

On the 19th, he observed on the shore a house made under ground, the walls were wicker-work, and the light came in from the top. Here was provided a bagnio for bathing, which the *Russians* use almost as much as the *Mahometans*. The place was inhabited by some *Novogay* and *Circassian Tartars*, who ply on the river with open boats; and here were also some settle-

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settlements of the *Calmuck*. From *Zaritzen* to *Astrachan* very little wood appeared on the banks of the *Volga*; in some parts of the western side the country is hilly, and the soil is in several places rich.



CHAP. IV.

A Description of Astrachan, of its Fisheries and Trade. An Account of the neighbouring Tartars, and of the Flights of Locusts with which this Country is infested. The Author continues his Voyage down the Volga to the Caspian Sea. A short Account of the Calmuck Settlements, and of the River Volga; with the Method of curing Caviare.

MR. *Harway* being arrived at *Astrachan*, was obliged to wait for Captain *Woodroose*, in whose ship he intended to embark for *Persia*, and took this opportunity of obtaining a more full information of the city of *Astrachan*, and its neighbourhood.

This city is the metropolis of a kingdom of the same name, situated in 47°. north latitude, within the limits of *Asia*, in an island called *Dolgoi*, 60 *English* miles from the *Caspian* sea. It was taken from the *Tartars*, and contains about 70,000 inhabitants, among whom are many *Armenians* and *Tartars* of various denominations, with a few *Persians* and *Indians*. The manners and customs of all these different people

ple exhibit an epitome of *Asia*. The city is about two miles and a half round, but including the suburbs, five miles. It is surrounded by an old ruinous brick wall, and defended by a garrison of six regiments of the best *Russian* troops; also in the adjacent plain are erected many small batteries. The houses are of wood, and most of them very mean; the higher part, commands a prospect of the *Volga*, which is here near three miles broad; but the melting of the snow which creates floods, and the rising of the water in autumn, are observed to affect the air and cause diseases. The city is surrounded by gardens, and vineyards, which lie about two miles from it, and produce all the roots, plants, and trees known in *England*, except potatoes, collyflowers, and artichokes; and their orchards furnish them with plenty of apples, pears, cherries, and water-melons, which in taste and colour resemble those in *Portugal*. Our Author met with no fruit which he thought extraordinary, but these melons; though the court are so fond of the grapes, as to procure them at the expence of the land carriage, as already mentioned. The wine of *Astrachan* is also very indifferent; as their summers are generally dry, they are obliged to water their gardens: this is done by large wheels, some of which are moved by horses, and others by the wind. These wheels are so high as to throw the water to the most elevated part of the garden, whence it runs in trenches to the root of every tree and plant; in this manner the gardens and vineyards are generally watered from the middle of

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May to the middle of September. The chief game in the neighbouring country is partridges and hares; here are also water and wild fowl of all sorts in great abundance, and in summer plenty of quails.

About ten miles below *Astrachan*, is *Bosmakoff*, a small island remarkable for its large store-houses of salt, made about twelve miles to the eastward of it, and brought thither by boats, whence it is conveyed in large flat-bottomed vessels up the *Volga*. With this salt all the country is supplied as far as *Moscow* and *Twere*. In this place are likewise large fisheries, to which the neighbourhood of the salt-works is of great advantage. These extend even to the *Caspian* sea, reaching south-eastward as far as *Yacik*, and also a hundred miles above *Zaritzen*. From these fisheries all the country is supplied as far as *Petersburgh*; the vessels are in the spring loaded with salt fish, but in winter, when fish will keep as long as it is frozen, it is carried by land as far as *Moscow* and *Petersburgh*. The principal sorts are sturgeon, starlett, a large white fish called beluga, and assotra, which resembles sturgeon.

Captain *Woodroffe*, who had been for some time at *Astrachan*, assured our Author, that from the latter end of *July* to the beginning of *October*, the country about that city is frequently infested with locusts, which fly in such prodigious numbers that they darken the air, and appear at a distance like a heavy cloud. The inhabitants say they are generally seen, as the cold weather comes on, in their flight from the

the northward to the southward. Wherever they fall they eat up every thing that is green; all gardeners therefore look out for them, and upon their first appearance, endeavour to keep them off by making as much smoak and as great a noise as possible; but these destructive insects, after flying as long as they were able, sometimes fall in their gardens, on the tops of houses, and even into the fires. Their bodies, compared with the smallness of their wings, are very large, and generally from two inches to two and a half long, and about three quarters of an inch in diameter; their shape nearly resembles the largest sort of green grasshoppers. Mr. Woodrooffe observes in his journal, that, as he was once sailing up the *Volga* to *Astrachan*, he saw a prodigious cloud coming from the west-north-west, which is across the river. The winds at that time blew very fresh, and nearly from the same point, when the locusts falling down, the water was covered with such vast swarms of them, that in some places they greatly obstructed the motion of the boat, for ten or twelve fathoms together. He also says, they live for some time under water, for as they mounted on each others backs they formed a cluster of near three feet diameter, which rolled along by the force of the wind, and the rapidity of the current. In this manner they were driven ashore. Their wings being dried, they got upon the pasture, and very few were drowned. For three days they lay so thick upon the plain upwards of three miles round, that it was impossible to walk without treading on them, and when

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when they began to fly, they disappeared in less than half an hour, leaving the plain without a blade of grass.

The trade of *Astrachan* is very considerable, though much diminished by the troubles in *Persia*, and the frequent revolt of the *Tartars*. Their foreign trade consists in red leather, linen, woollen-cloth, and *European* manufactures, the greatest part of which they export to *Persia* for the *Armenians*: in return they import *Persian* manufactures, as silk sashes intermixed with gold, for the use of the *Poles*; wrought silks, and stuffs mixed with cotton; raw silk, cotton, a small quantity of drugs, and in particular rhubarb; but this last article is engrossed by the government, and private persons are forbid to deal in it upon pain of death. The officers of the admiralty and custom-house of *Astrachan* have very small salaries; which is the case in all other parts of *Russia*; so that instead of doing their duty, and dispatching business, they often seek pretences to protract it, in order to obtain the more considerable presents. Upon these occasions *French* brandy, white wine, hats, stockings, and ribbons, are acceptable.

While Mr. *Hanway* was here, the Governor invited him to a feast, at which there were near an hundred dishes; this gave him an opportunity of seeing a singular specimen of *Russian* intemperance, for above 20 people drank to excess in goblets filled with a kind of cherry-brandy. This feast was made for the birth of the Governor's grand daughter, on which occasion
each

each of the guests presented an offering according to his rank. This is a civil way of levying a tax from the merchants, and a custom, though not elegant, less absurd in the opinion of our Author, than that of some politer countries; for here without disguise or ceremony, you leave one or two ducats, or some richer present on the bed of the lady, who sits up with great formality to be saluted.

Mr. *Hanway* was lead by his curiosity to see the devotions of the *Indian* Pagans in a little temple they have here. Their priests use beads, incense, prostrations, and offerings, small bells, with other music, and raise their voices in singing with the utmost vehemence. The object of their adoration was a pagod, ugly and deformed to a degree of horror. The service being over, they presented Mr. *Hanway* some of the fruits which had been offered to this idol, but he thought proper to refuse them; though not without some melancholy reflections on the abject state to which he saw human nature reduced.

The *Tartars* here have the utmost abhorrence of this image worship, and will not even carry money that has the impression of man, or any living creature into their temple. Their devotions are performed in silent prostrations, only the priest, at certain times, utters an invocation to the Lord of Nature, through the meditation of *Mahomet*.

For several miles round the city where the soil will admit of cultivation, there are settlements of a very civil and industrious people of the

the race of the *Crim Tartars*, who are tributary to the *Russians*. In the summer they improve their land, the produce of which is a seed called manna, oats, musk, and water-melons; but their wives and children, with their sheep, horses, and cattle, they reckon their principal treasure. When a daughter becomes marriageable, they cover her tent with white linen; tie a painted cloth on the top, with red strings, and place by the side of the tent a painted waggon, which is to be her marriage portion. This is a signal to those who design to marry, and the girl is generally given to him who offers the father the most valuable present. These people are *Mahometans*, and contrary to the practice of the *Cal-mucks*, are extremely nice in their burying-places: they dig their graves very deep, line them with brick dried in the sun, white-wash them on the inside, and build a cover over them. They then raise thick walls of mud round the place, and fix over the top one or more flags, according to the characters of the deceased.

On the eighth of *November* our Author left *Astrachan*, under convoy of the Governor's barge with twelve grenadiers, and at night slept within pistol-shot of a *Cal-muck* settlement, composed of round tents raised with canes, in the form of a cone, and covered with a thick felt of camel's hair, which keeps out the weather extremely well. These tents are about twelve feet high, and from ten to fifteen yards in circumference. The inhabitants make a fire in the centre of tent, and the smoke
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issues from the top, at a hole left for that purpose. The people are miserably poor, and subsist on fish, which they take in the *Volga*, drying in summer the provisions they prepare for the winter. They prefer living on the banks where the flags and rushes grow to a great height, thinking that they defend them from the severity of the winter's cold. There are seldom more than seven or eight tents in a place, which contain thirty or forty persons, who live in distinct families and a chief, whom they chuse from among themselves. There are other *Calmucks* who travel to the south on the approach of winter, and return northward in the heat of summer.

As Mr. *Hanway* advanced within 30 wersts of the mouth of the *Volga*, he descried a great number of small islands; the whole scene appearing wild and inhospitable. Being happily arrived at *Terkie*, he embarked in the *British* ship the *Empress of Russia*, and was rejoiced at finding himself in a vessel of good oak, probably the only compleat ship which had 'till that time appeared on the *Caspian* sea. It gave him no less pleasure to see the *English* flag hoisted, and to receive those common marks of esteem, which masters of ships pay to their merchants, when they have any guns.

As we are going to take leave of the *Volga*, a river so often mentioned, we shall here give a more particular description of it. It was antiently called the *Rba*, and is justly esteemed for its extent and depth, one of the noblest

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rivers in the world. It derives its source from the lake *Fernoff* in the province of *Kerkoff*, running according to general computation near 4500 wersts, or 3000 *English* miles, before it empties itself in the *Caspian* sea. Into this river fall the *Twersa* which comes from *Twere*, the *Moswa* from *Moscow*, the *Occa* from *Columna*, the *Kama*, which divides the *Nogay* and *Kuban* *Tartary*, the *Samar* and *Samora*, and many others. It is of the utmost utility to the vast empire of *Russia*, both with regard to commerce, and as it has been a means of reducing the different tribes of *Tartars* who frequent its borders. The immense quantities of water that flow into it from other rivers, and from the mountains when the snow melts in the spring, are the cause of its swelling at different times and places. It usually begins to rise in *March*, and increases in *April* and *May*, continuing above its usual mark 'till the end of *June*; and then it decreases very fast. It is often raised in *September* by autumnal rains; but this rise is neither so constant nor so considerable. As there are many different climates in the course of the river, the ice breaks up at different times. The banks are altered almost every year by the force of the current, and by the sands blown into the river from the adjacent countries. The danger arising from these shifting banks are not very great, but they create delays. The usual course of the stream can hardly be reckoned above a mile an hour. The navigation is difficult for vessels that draw above six feet water, except in times of flood, when

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the largest flat-bottomed vessels find sufficient water. Our Author has seen one afloat in the month of *October*, said to have 600 tons of salt and fish on board. And in some seasons they have barks of greater burthen. The trade carried on in this river is great and extensive; but from no place more considerable than from *Nizhny Novgorod* and *Cazan*.

Besides the great abundance of fish taken in the *Volga*, and sent either salted or frozen to distant parts of the *Russian* empire, a commerce is carried on in caviare, which is the roe of sturgeon and the fish called beluga, and is thus prepared: they take away the stringy part, then mix it with salt well cleaned and made into brine, and when drained from the oily part and pressed, it becomes of such a consistence to keep two or three years. In the winter it is sent to all parts of the empire, and is much esteemed by the natives as well as foreigners. A large quantity is made for exportation, which is consumed by the *Christians* of *Italy* and the *Levant*. The *Armenians* have the greatest skill in preparing it, and usually make about 600 poods, or 100 tons, every year: and in 1744 they brought 20,000 poods to market.



CHAP. V.

The Author arrives at Langarood Bay, where he visits Mr. Elton, and from thence sails to Astrabad Bay; whence he proceeds to Astrabad. A Description of the Persian Manner of Smoking, and other Customs of the Inhabitants. A Rebellion breaks out in the Province of Astrabad. The Author in great Distress; the City taken, and the Caravan designed for Mesched plundered.

ON the 22d of September, Mr. Hanway set sail, and on the 3d of December arrived in Langarood Bay; where being informed that Mr. Elton was removed from *Reshd* to Langarood, to attend the maritime affairs in which he had engaged, he sent to let that gentleman know of his arrival, upon which he came on board, and conducted our Author on shore, where he gave him a polite reception. Mr. Hanway delivered to him a pair of pistols of exquisite workmanship mounted in gold, and some other curious things which Mr. Elton had wrote for, at the desire of Ali Kouli Khan, the Shah's nephew, with whom he was solicitous of cultivating a good correspondence.

Mr. Elton's habitation at Langarood was about eight English miles from the shore, in the midst of a wood surrounded with marshes, where the roads were hardly passable. It was situated at

the foot of a lofty mountain open only to the sea, this intercepted the passage of the air, and rendered the place very unwholesome; for as *Ghilan* is generally esteemed the sink of *Persia*, so *Langarood* is considered as the sink of *Ghilan*. Mr. *Hanway* spent seven days with this gentleman, during which they talked over the affair of the *Caspian* trade. Mr. *Elton* was indeed seriously employed in building ships for the Shah; and proved that he was capable of surmounting the greatest difficulties. Mr. *Hanway* expressed his fears of the consequence of his engagement with *Nadir*, and pointed out many capital inconveniencies he apprehended would follow from it.

One great inducement to open the *Caspian* trade, was, the hopes of establishing a new branch of commerce from *Astrabad* to *Mesched*, from whence Mr. *Elton* thought it practicable to extend it to the northern cities of the *Mogul's* empire. It now fell to Mr. *Hanway's* lot to attempt the execution of this design. He had brought with him to the value of 5000*l.* in woollen goods, for which he found there was no market in *Ghilan*, and therefore his presence there would be of little use. But though Mr. *Elton* had already secured the Shah's express decree, by which it was ordered, that safe conduct should be given to him in all parts of his dominions; he was so alarmed by the vicinity of the *Turkuman Tartars* to *Astrabad*, that he did not chuse to venture, 'till by enquiring, he found that in case of danger he might there have what guard of soldiers he pleased.

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On the 10th of *December* our Author, having taken leave of Mr. *Elton*, went down to the creek. The ship was at anchor out of sight of land, and the wind blew very fresh; he had a crazy boat rowed by *Persians*, who are for the most part equally timorous and unskilful, so that it was with reluctance he ventured to sea; but he soon got sight of the ship, and happily reached her.

He directed his course for *Astrabad*, and was four days in sight of the great mountain *Demawan*, which is said to be 30 leagues within land, and yet at the distance of four or five leagues from the shore, it might be distinguished very plain rising in the form of a pyramid.

On the 18th of *December* he entered *Astrabad* bay, into which runs the river *Korgun*, after washing the bank of the desert of *Turkumania*. The sea has here, as well as in other parts of the *Caspian*, made great inroads, so that in many places trees lie on the shore, and render it as difficult of access, as its appearance is wild and inhospitable. The ship having cast anchor, Mr. *Hanway* dispatched an *Armenian* servant to know if he might land his goods with safety, but he soon returned without obtaining any information. Many fires were instantly seen in different places, and upon the mountains, to alarm the inhabitants for fear of a surprise, for this was taken for a pirate ship, and the people on the coast were terrified on account of their having been often plundered by the pirates. Two days after Mr. *Hanway* went
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ashore; but stumps of trees and shallows made it difficult for a long boat to land nearer than twenty yards. However, the peasants being at length satisfied that he was come on a friendly errand, came with merchandize; received Mr. Hanway and his attendants, and conducted them by many crooked paths through a thick wood to a small village. These people are swarthy, but their features regular and somewhat delicate. Our Author sent his *Armenian* interpreter with his compliments to *Mahomed Zaman Beg* the Governor of *Astrabad*, and with orders to provide necessaries for the fresh package of the cloth, after which he returned on board.

On the 21st, it was observed, that the sun was risen above an hour before it was visible to those in the ship, such is the stupendous height of the mountains. The Governor sent to assure Mr. Hanway of his protection, and to advise him not to repose any confidence in the peasants near the coast. A few days after he was visited by *Nazeer Aga* a *Persian* officer, who had been recommended to him as a person of great probity: he made him an offer of his house at *Astrabad*, which Mr. Hanway accepted, and assured him of the sense he had of his own happiness in meeting with so kind and generous a friend. *Nazeer Aga* was accompanied by *Myrza*, a grave old man who had a great reputation for wisdom.

On the 26th the ship narrowly escaped being burnt; for about 80 pounds of raw cotton, intended for the package of the bales, being set on fire

fire in the steerage, by the carelessness of one of the seamen, it was with difficulty extinguished. Mr. *Hanway* was asleep in the cabin and almost suffocated with smoke, and the danger was the greater, as the fire was about the powder-chest; but it pleased providence that no harm was done, except burning the hands and faces of some of the sailors, which were soon cured. But at night the woods and the mountains took fire, occasioned by the custom of burning rushes on the coast, in order to destroy the insects that breed in them, and to afford a free passage for the air. This fire being assisted by the wind made a dreadful blaze, which soon extended several miles; and the wind blowing from the shore brought with it such heat, that the butter in the ship ran to oil. There had been a bright sun and no rain for twenty days, so that it was with difficulty the peasants diverted the current of the flames and saved their villages.

Mr. *Hanway* soon after prepared to go on shore; but the *Armenian* interpreter began now to express his fears of the dangers to which they should be exposed in their intended journey to *Mesched*, where he had been robbed, in some former rebellion, of goods to a considerable value; but, being of a timorous disposition, what he said made but little impression on Mr. *Hanway*; and *Myrza Mahommed*, having received orders from the Governor of the province to supply him with a guard, and to entertain him in his house, he landed the bales without waiting for the

the Governor, who had intimated his design to visit the ship.

On the 2d of *January*, 1744, Mr. *Hanway* pitched his tent on the shore, and collected all the people who were to convey the goods to the city. *Myrza* then sent him an invitation to come to his house, and his son, who delivered the message, assured him in a complimentary strain, that his father would kill him if he returned without him. Our Author, however, excused himself 'till the next day. One of the company then sung an extempore song, consisting mostly of welcomes and fulsome commendations of the strangers, after which they eat their *pleo*, which they finished in a much shorter time than a table could be laid for a polite entertainment in *Europe*. At length they made large fires, round which they danced, and seemed filled with joy, and in the evening they performed their devotions. During the night, the jackalls in the woods barked and howled to such a degree that it was very difficult for persons unused to such noise to receive the refreshment of sleep. In the morning *Myrza's* brother and his two sons came with several horses, of which Mr. *Hanway* took one for himself and another for his interpreter, and in about eight hours they arrived at the city, the carriers making but one stop on the way, which was to perform their devotions.

The next day, as Mr. *Hanway* had not yet provided a proper equipage for appearing before the Governor, *Nazeer Aga*, in whose house he was lodged, lent him a horse handsomely

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caparisoned, and insisted on his taking his servants as well as his own to attend him. Mr. *Hanway*'s present to the Governor was carried in before him, and consisted of several cuts of fine cloth and loaves of sugar laid on a large tea-board. The Governor was attended by several persons of the greatest distinction in the city, who all rose at his coming and desired him to take his place; when the Governor, observing that he could not accommodate himself to their manner of sitting, ordered a chair, bid him welcome to *Persia*, and told him that the city of *Astrabad* was now at his disposal. Mr. *Hanway* returned him thanks for this high strained compliment, and assured him of the great satisfaction he felt at being received into the protection of a person of his character and authority. He then mentioned the favourable decree granted by the Shah to the *English* merchants, and observed that it depended on the Governor to see his Majesty's pleasure executed. He afterwards asked, if the passage to *Mesched* was safe; the Governor answered in the affirmative, and that he would send four choice soldiers with him, who should be bound for the safe delivery of his caravan at *Mesched*. Upon this our Author returned him his thanks and retired.

Mr. *Hanway* now, inspired with gratitude, went to pay his respects to *Nazeer Aga*, of whose humanity and politeness he had received such signal proofs. This old man had been *Nadir's* companion when he was only the chief of a party of robbers in the neighbouring mountains

tains. He seemed too honest for *Nadir's* purpose, and his want of ambition secured him from most of the calamities common even to favourites. His white beard gave a venerable air to his person, and a manly cheerfulness rendered his company perfectly agreeable. The old man received him with great marks of kindness, and sent for some master carriers to agree about conveying his caravan to *Mesched*. Here Mr. *Hanway* first received a proof of the equivocating disposition of the modern *Persians*, and finding it was impossible to fix them to any thing, he took his leave for that time.

Mr. *Hanway* was visited a day or two after by several of the principal men of the place, who made their compliments by putting their hands on their breasts, and bowing the head. Those who are more familiar press the palm of your hand between both theirs, and then raise them to their forehead, to express the high and cordial respect they have for your person. Most of the visitors had an air of importance, and spoke little; but after sitting and smoking the caalleen, for a few minutes, took their leave.

The *Persians* are extremely fond of tobacco; theirs is yellow, and very mild compared with that of *America*; and they draw the smoke in prodigious quantities. The caalleen used on this occasion is a glass vessel resembling a decanter, filled about three parts with water. The tobacco being prepared and made into a ball, is put into a silver utensil not unlike a tea-cup, which has a tube that reaches almost to the bottom of the water. Another tube is fixed to the neck

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neck of the vessel above the water, fastened to a leathern pipe through which they draw the smoke, and as it passes through the water it is cool and pleasant.

Mr. *Hanway* entertained some of his guests, according to the custom of the country, with sweetmeats, of which they took a little, and gave the remainder to their servants: these are often so numerous, that a treat of this kind will cost ten or twelve crowns. Absurd and expensive as this custom appears, our Author thought it less inconsistent than that which prevails in some parts of *Europe*, where a servant is rewarded by his master's guests for doing his duty.

The difficulties and delays made by the carriers gave Mr. *Hanway* great vexation, and some of the townsmen frequently importuned him to open his bales and sell them pieces of cloth; but rather than agree to this, he made several of the principal persons presents of as much as was sufficient for a coat. At length, being persuaded by *Nageer Aga*, he with great reluctance agreed to let the camel drivers set out with part of the goods two or three days before he was to follow them, alledging that they could not keep pace with the horses. Accordingly on the 10th he delivered 40 bales, which were placed on the backs of ten camels, sent an *Armenian* servant along with them, and appointed a place of rendezvous on the other side the most difficult passes of the mountains.

Mr. *Hanway* then made a visit to the Governor, who appeared perplexed and troubled. It was said that he was providing horses to send the

the King's treasure, amounting to 17,000 crowns, to *Casbin*, and he now let our Author know, that he could not spare him above one soldier. He was extremely startled at this news, and used many arguments to persuade the Governor to alter his resolution, but without effect. He was astonished to find that a caravan with 17,000 crowns in money should have a strong guard, while he with 30,000 crowns in cloth was to have only one soldier: but he was ignorant of the secret, and this ignorance constituted his happiness. He intended to follow the first caravan immediately, and prepared kedgavays, a kind of covered chairs big enough for one person to sit in, which the *Persians* hang over camels in the manner of panniers, that he might accommodate any of his company, should they happen to fall sick, and provide for his own security against the extremity of the cold.

He was preparing to leave this city, the first he had seen in *Persia*; but while he was giving the necessary orders, *Nazeer Aga* came and told him that it was not a lucky hour, and therefore he must not depart. Mr. *Hanway* answered, that as he depended on that good providence which at all times governs the world, he paid no regard to lucky hours, and would therefore go: but the other replying, that he must not set out, he thought proper to submit.

A dismal scene began now to disclose itself: *Nazeer Aga* had hardly left him, when he heard the hoarse sound of trumpets to call in the neighbouring inhabitants with their cattle.

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The shops were ordered to be shut up, and the townsmen repair to the walls. He now began to recollect a thousand incidents which discovered the play that was about to be acted. *Nazeer Aga* immediately returned, and advised him to send for his ship, acknowledging that they were all in the utmost danger from the rebellion which had broke out in the neighbourhood of the city; but alas! this could not be done, for the vessel had sailed to another port. Mr. *Harway* desired him to send for the ten camel loads of cloth, that it might return back to the city, but the old man told him, that none were permitted to go out of the city, and that for fear of an insurrection within the walls, a strong guard was ordered to patrol the streets.

It now appeared that *Mahommed Hassan Beg*, who had left the city some days before, was in arms at the head of a party of *Khajars*, with an auxiliary body of *Turkuman Tartars*. *Mahommed Khan Beg* and *Sadec Aga*, two young men of distinction who were with the Governor when Mr. *Harway* first waited on him, had joined the rebels, and all unanimously declared that they resolved to seize the Shah's treasure, and particularly our Author's caravan; and the better to delude the unhappy townsmen, they gave out that the Shah was dead.

The next day the Governor sent ten soldiers to guard the ten camels loaded with *English* cloth back into the city; but the enemy was already possessed of all the avenues, and the goods were actually lodged in a village that belonged to *Mahommed Khan Beg*. The only

comfort *Nazeer Aga* now gave Mr. *Hanway* was that while he lived they should not touch his life. The old man was now perfectly sensible of the danger which threatened that gentleman and his attendants. The respect that had always been shewn to *Nazeer Aga* by *Mahommed Hassan Beg*, and those who had embarked in this desperate enterprize, induced him to venture among them, and to endeavour to dissuade them from persisting in it, the old man made use of all his eloquence; but they suffered him to return, without his being able to make any impression on them. Hitherto he had appeared undaunted; but he now seemed extremely disturbed, and as much concerned as if he was that night to render up his accounts for his past life, and for the years that had rendered his beard so venerably hoary.

A besieged city, and a faithless and weak garrison, were things as new to Mr. *Hanway* as *Persia* and the *Persians*; but the dread he had conceived of the barbarity of the *Turkuman Tartars* made a deeper impression on his mind: the only hope that remained was, that it could answer no end to these barbarians to do violence to his person, since it could not conceal the robbery. His attendants would have persuaded him to put on a *Persian* habit; but he chose to remain without disguise. The rebel army having advanced near the city, the Governor and *Nazeer Aga* escaped by night in the disguise of peasants.

Those who were not in the rebellion now cursed our Author as the cause of their distress, alledging that it was his valuable goods that

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had made the rebels rise in arms, in order to get them into their possession; but as he had nothing to reproach himself with, these suggestions made little impression on his mind. As all resistance would have been vain, the people had nothing to do but to submit to the conquerors, and the city was delivered to *Mahommed Hassan Beg* without tumult.

On the 17th the rebels entered the town with great signs of joy and mirth. A large party drove before them the Calenter, or town-clerk, who had acted as Sub-Governor, and another person stark naked insisted on their giving them the possession of the King's treasure, which the Governor had concealed before his escape.

Sadoc Aga, who was appointed General, with *Mahommed Khan Beg* and 14 other persons of distinction, now came to the house where Mr. *Hanway* dwelt: he had collected his attendants into one room, where he waited to know his fate: from thence he sent a *Tartar* boy, who understood the *Turkish* language, to conduct these hostile visitors to him, and tell them that he hoped to be treated with humanity. They immediately entered, and assured him, that they had no intention to hurt him, and would as soon as the new government was established, pay him for his goods, demanding at the same time to be informed, where they were lodged, and requiring him to give up to them his purse; but when they had counted the money it contained, they delivered it back to him again. Mr. *Hanway*, however, had the address to conceal a purse of 160 crowns in gold.

After the rebels were in possession of the city, they put only one man to death, who was a groom belonging to the late Governor, and had been the actual executioner of *Tæhmas Shah* their last lawful Sovereign.

It was now apparent to Mr. *Hanway* on what principles his pretended friend *Myrza Mahomed* had acted; he was in the secret of the rebellion at the time of his arrival, and had brought him into the city as a sheep to the slaughter; however, as he had now nothing to lose but his life, he thought it best to dissemble his knowledge of his perfidy, and intreated him to recover for him the money he had advanced to the carriers, and he actually got back 150 crowns.

Baba Sadoc was now Governor of the city; and Mr. *Hanway* secured him in his interest by a present of a piece of rich silk, which he had secreted with the money mentioned above, and by this means obtained the possession of his chamber, from which he had been forced by the rebels. His purse was again demanded by *Mahomed Khan Beg*, and Mr. *Hanway* was obliged to give it him. Two of the *Turkuman* chiefs were then brought into the room, whose habits were coarse and their persons ill favoured. These said to *Mahomed Khan Beg*, "You give us the merchandize of the *Russians*, will you not give us the *Russians* also? they will serve to keep our sheep." This speech made Mr. *Hanway* resolve to leave the city at any rate, fearing that if the *Turkuman* party should continue

continue victorious, he should be carried as a slave into the country of those barbarians.

The *Turkuman Tartars* soon after quarrelled about the plunder. Fear now took place of tumultuous joy; the gates of the city were ordered to be shut, and no person allowed to pass in or out, without the knowledge of *Mahomed Hassan Beg*. However, Mr. *Hanway* having given to that new Governor a regular account of the real value of the goods, the better to carry on the farce, received of him a bill for the amount, which was promised to be paid when the new government was established. The Governor also ordered *Myrza* to provide him and his attendants a guard of peasants and horses to carry them.



CHAP. VI.

The Author leaves Astrabad, arrives at Balfrush and joins a Party of the Shah's Forces. The Adventures which beset him in retiring before the Turkuman Tartars.

ON the 24th of January Mr. *Hanway* took leave of *Astrabad* under the convoy of *Myrza*, his brothers, his two sons, and about 20 armed villagers; he carried with him all his baggage and even his arms, and after a day's journey arrived safe at *Koordiemalla*, a village belonging to *Myrza*. The brother, whose character was not the most amiable,

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would have conducted Mr. *Hanway* to his house in the adjacent mountain; but he absolutely refused to go, in which resolution he was confirmed by the carriers, who expressed their fears of him by saying, "God only knows of his secret retirements." *Myrza*, who imagined Mr. *Hanway* was still possessed of some things of value, thought it inconsistent with his interest to suffer him to carry them off. His demure countenance, and strict observance of the letter of the law, served to cover the violation of substantial virtue. He had now got that unhappy gentleman in his power, and made no scruple to declare that he would not answer for his safety a single mile farther, and that the carriers who were under his jurisdiction should not proceed, unless he left his baggage with him. This crafty old man, whose perfidiousness was exceeded by nothing but his hypocrisy, resolved to play a cunning game; if the rebellion succeeded he would make a prize of the baggage, and if it did not succeed he would plead his loyalty by preserving it for Mr. *Hanway*. That gentleman saw himself intirely at his mercy, and therefore thought it best not to seem to mistrust him; therefore after having secreted every thing that was portable, he delivered the rest up to him.

The next day Mr. *Hanway* advanced with his company about 20 *English* miles, and that night lay in the open fields. On the 26th after travelling over ditches and through pathless woods, he arrived at a ruined cottage, where he passed the night. His greatest concern there was

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to prevent the jackals running away with his accoutrements: these animals, with which the woods abound, are remarkably fond of leather, and several of them ran over his bed in the night. He was determined to part with his conductors as soon as possible; for they sowed rebellion wherever they came, the people receiving them as their deliverers, complaining aloud that the Shah had reduced them to the extremest misery. They afterwards passed by the ruins of the palace at *Farabad* once famous for being the residence of the *Persian* Kings. From thence they proceeded through a little village upon a lake, where several peasants support themselves by catching wild ducks. They go in boats during the night near the marshy banks that are covered with rushes, and carry great lights on the stern, when ringing a number of small bells the birds are confounded, and even fly into their hands.

The carriers had engaged to conduct Mr. *Hanway* and his servants to *Balfrush*, the capital of *Maxanderan* now about 20 miles distant; but hearing that *Mahommed Khan*, the Admiral of the sea coast, was raising forces to oppose the *Astrabad* rebels, they would proceed no farther. He was in a country surrounded by marshes, where no horses, nor any other cattle were to be had, and therefore desired them to conduct him at least to some place where he could procure horses; but this they also refused, alledging that as he was near the sea, he might go by water. Accordingly on the

27th in the morning they conducted him to a poor fisherman's hut on the sea-coast, who had a leaky canoe too small for six persons; besides, it could be navigated only with oars near the shore, where the surf ran so high that it seemed impossible for such a boat to convey Mr. *Hanway* and his servants 20 miles. He therefore repeated his entreaties that they would either find him horses according to their agreement, or conduct him where he might procure them. This demand they treated with contempt, which obliged him to threaten them to use force: upon this two of them being armed with match-locks, lighted their matches: two had bows and arrows; and all of them, being six in number, had sabres, and put themselves in a posture of defence. Mr. *Hanway* collected his company, among whom were four muskets, a blunderbuss, and a pair of pistols; but he could scarcely depend on more than two of his servants. In this situation they parleyed for some time, till at length Mr. *Hanway* wisely submitted, and trusting to providence embarked in the canoe, when having gentle breezes from the east, he and his attendants got safe to *Meschedizar*. The next day he sent an *Armenian* servant to the Admiral *Mahommed Khan*, to inform him of his arrival, and to beg his protection: on which he received a horse handsomely caparisoned, and four mules for his servants.

On the 30th he came to *Balfrush*, where he had the satisfaction to learn the opinion of the *Persian* merchants, that the Shah would make

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make good his loss. *Mahommed Khan* congratulated him on his escape with life, and on his arrival within his jurisdiction. But the next day *Sadoc Aga* having advanced at the head of a party of *Turkumans* within a few miles of the city, *Mr. Hanway* waited on the Admiral, who now seemed cold to his interest, and complained that he did not know but that the next day might be his last, as he was neither in a condition to fight, nor dared to retire, for fear of his master's displeasure. Our Author resolved now to depend no longer on the Khan's promises; but to hire horses, mules, or even asses, where he could get them; but this he soon found was impossible; for the greatest part of the people had fled with their most valuable effects, and the rest were preparing to follow their example. Under these circumstances he had nothing to do but to prepare to receive the conquerors a second time, or to walk off by himself unattended. The next day *Mahommed Khan* sent him a horse miserably poor and dis-tempered: he was in some doubt whether he should accept of him or not; but at length he took his leave of his interpreter and servants, offering them what money they should have occasion for, and giving them the rebels' passport, he recommended them to providence.

The *Tartars* entered one gate, as he went out of the other. *Mr. Hanway* fell in with a party which conducted the baggage of *Mahommed Khan*, who with his few forces soon followed; it was impossible for our Author to keep pace with him. The *Tartar* boy followed

lowed him on foot; but soon grew tired, and earnestly intreated him to take him up behind him. However, before they got six miles, the horse's hind quarters gave way, and he sat up on his tail like a dog, so that they were both obliged to dismount. Mr. *Hanway* now hardly knew what method to pursue: he had wrapped his body round with soft *Persian* sashes to defend himself from the weather, which at that season is generally severe in those parts, so that he was but in a bad condition for walking. He had no guide, and understood but few words of the language; however, by the assistance of the *Tartar* boy, who spoke *Turkish* and *Russ*, he found his way to the sea-coast, carrying a blunderbuss, and a pair of pistols. His cloaths were already very mean, and the better to deceive any robber, he set the boy on the horse which was still able to creep along with a small weight, and led him by the bridle. He came to several rivers, at which he had the good fortune to find ferries, and being afraid to shew any money for fear of being robbed, pleaded poverty and passed gratis. In this manner he continued his journey for ten *English* miles, perplexed, and extremely harrassed with fatigue. At length, to his great joy, the Khan's company having halted, he came up with them, and procured some shelter from the weather, with a matt to lie on. By this time Mr. *Hogg* his clerk, and his *Russian* menial servant came up with him, having had better fortune than their master, for they had rode on horseback with the Khan's retinue.

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Early the next day Mr. *Hanway* sent to the Khan to let him know that it was impossible to proceed on the horse he had sent him: he then ordered others, but demanded above five times the value. Mr. *Hanway* knew that the possession of them would be precarious, and finding a person who offered to supply him with better horses for hire, declined the Khan's proposal. He now proceeded a short day's journey to a little village on the sea-coast, where he halted, and was again deprived of his horse. The Khan there observing the beauty of his pistols, which were mounted with silver, desired the loan of them, alledging that he was going with a party to reconnoitre the rebels. Mr. *Hanway* begged his acceptance of them, reminding him at the same time that neither himself nor the three persons who were yet with him, had any carriage but what depended on accident. Upon this he again assured him that he would take care of them. But after a few hours absence, he returned in some confusion, and ordered all the avenues of the woods to be guarded, to prevent a surprize. Mr. *Hanway* had not eaten any thing for near forty hours, except a few parched peas, so that he was obliged to beg what he dared not buy.

The men and baggage being collected within the walls of the house where the Khan was lodged, Mr. *Hanway* concluded they either intended a secret flight, or to defend themselves in case of an attack: he therefore joined them, and repeated his intreaties for horses whenever they should march, on which the Khan bid him.

him not be uneasy, and promised that he would not leave any of them behind: but when night came on they began their march, and our Author had the mortification to find that every thing, even to the least valuable baggage, was carried off, great part of it on very good horses, while himself, Mr. Hogg, the *Russian* servant, and little boy were left behind. He had thought that a present of a pair of pistols of sixty crowns value would have been sufficient to procure the loan of a few bad horses, for three or four days; but where generosity is a stranger, gratitude has seldom any admittance. Trusting to the goodness of Providence, he resolved to follow the Khan, to try if he could yet procure relief. He had not strength to walk far, and was stopped by a deep river. He happily found a ferry, and having passed it, entered into a wood where the road was deep and marshy. It rained hard, and the night was very dark; but the baggage horses being heavy and moving slowly, he came up to them, and having kept them company near four miles, was so spent with fatigue, that finding no other expedient, he resolved to seize the bridle of the horse on which the Khan himself was mounted, and to try if the word Shah had any magic to bring him to that sense of his duty, which neither his promise nor the dictates of humanity had yet produced. Having collected some broken words, and taken the Shah's decree out of his pocket, he advanced towards the Khan, and calling him by his name, he halted. Our Author's situation

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pleaded his cause without the assistance of many words, and the Khan ordered his Secretary to take him up behind him.

Thus mounted, he went on slowly for some miles, till the Khan ordered a horse loaded with baggage to be delivered, for which he was to pay 50 crowns, though it was too dark to discover whether it was a horse or any other animal. One of the conductors of the baggage had compassion on the *Tartar* boy, and took him up, and Mr. *Hogg* and the *Russian* servant had hitherto strength to walk; but at length Mr. *Hogg* complained that he could go no farther, on which Mr. *Hanway* gave him the horse; but was so little able to walk, that he was soon obliged to desire him to dismount, and left him behind.

The Khan's apprehensions of the *Turkumans* carried him on from seven in the evening till the same hour next morning; when, after a short refreshment, he continued his march till four in the evening. The darkness of the approaching night had been increased by continual rain, while the wind, the beating of the waves on the shore, and the apprehension of a savage enemy, added horror to our Author's fatigues.

The next day and night they travelled 20 hours, and at length halted at a village to refresh themselves, where Mr. *Hanway* hired a barber to shave him, who, being asked if he knew that he was a *Christian*, and consequently unclean, left him in the midst of his work. Our Author could hardly forbear laughing at the figure he made on this occasion, he was

indeed literally unclean, for his cloaths were very dirty, they not having been off his back for 13 days. He was now obliged to forgo that tenderness which his constitution seemed to require; and to lie on the bare earth, though sometimes he had the fortune to procure a little straw. The inroads of the *Caspian* sea, and the torrents from the mountains had formed many channels of water, some of which are hardly passable. The north wind also made so great a surge on the shore, that many horses belonging to the company were thrown down by its violence, and their riders in danger of being drowned. At length he obtained a discharge from the baggage under which his horse laboured, but he found him so weak that he chose to trust to his own legs in passing these channels, where he seldom escaped without being wet to the middle.

In the evening they arrived at *Espuchin*, a little village on the sea-shore, situated in a very marshy wood abounding in ditches, with the houses scattered in a wild irregular manner. Mr. *Hanway* having taken a lodging, resolved to pay a visit to the Khan; but the night suddenly coming on, he knew not which way to take, so that he wandered a considerable time among the ditches and bogs. After being extremely fatigued and perplexed, he discovered a light, made up to it, and obtained the information he wanted. He would now have gladly cleaned himself, but that was impossible; the Khan seemed extremely surprised at seeing him, and Mr. *Hanway* could not explain

to him the reason of so extraordinary a visit; but desired to be conducted to his own lodgings. The most stupid and ungenerous have their fits of benevolence; our Author had the pleasure to see victuals set before him, with water to wash, and a pan of charcoal to warm him. At length he was conducted to his lodgings, where he found his *Russian* servant, who had supported himself under his fatigue, and being extremely faithful, had been in the utmost anxiety on his master's account.

The next day the Khan having made a forced march thought himself out of danger; for *Sadoc Aga*, with the *Turkumans*, had desisted from the pursuit; the Khan therefore gave his women in charge to *Shah-verdie Beg*, and went to *Tunicabune*. *Shah-verdie Beg*, who had before shewn Mr. *Hanway* some instances of his good nature, being now detached from the Khan, treated him with greater civility; but having no conveniences of life with him, no more than related to his own person, he could supply him with nothing but provisions. In *Persia* it is not customary for any man in travelling to come near the women, except their Lord, or his servants: but the circumstances they were in prevented a scrupulous regard to this practice, and Mr. *Hanway* had once the office, which is not the most dignified in that empire, of guarding the women with his blunderbuss. The roads through the woods were still very marshy, while the sand on the shore, and the trees which the sea had washed down, rendered travelling very disagreeable; but the tem-

perate quality of the air was extremely refreshing. Mr. *Hanway* now first observed the delightful situation of many recesses in the mountains, where they have plenty of fine running streams, with a profusion of vines, orange and lemon-trees.

In twenty-three days since the city of *Astrabad* was taken by the rebels, Mr. *Hanway* had not enjoyed an hour of security or unbroken sleep. He was now drawing near to *Langarood*, which he had left seven weeks before, and was as desirous of seeing it again, as if it had been his home; when Mr. *Elton*, being informed that he was on the road, sent Mr. *Lofstus* his interpreter, with a servant and one of his best horses to meet him.



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C H A P. VII.

The Author's kind Reception by Mr. Elton. He goes in Search of the Shab. Is received with great Politeness by Hadggee Zamon. The Persian Manner of Eating, and the Nature of their Beds. A Description of the City of Casbin, and of the Palace built by Nadir Shah; with the most material Events 'till his arrival at the Persian Camp.

OUR Author on his arrival at *Langarood* was received by Mr. *Elton* with open arms, and congratulated on his having escaped with his liberty and life. His legs and feet were much swelled and bruised, his boots not having been off for sixteen days, and he was obliged to stay some time to provide fresh cloathing he not having saved any part of what he carried to *Astrabad*.

Mr. *Hanway* having informed Mr. *Elton*, where he had left *Mattenuse*, his interpreter, and the other *Armenian* servants, with Mr. *Hogg*, his clerk, whose situation he was afraid would expose him to some misfortune, Mr. *Elton* immediately sent servants and horses in quest of him, and after a few days he was brought to *Langarood*. He had overtaken *Mahommed Khan*, who had provided him a horse, for which he was to pay a considerable price, though the

beast fell under him before he had advanced two miles. Mr. *Hogg* now seemed like a man expiring in a consumption: he had been two days and three nights exposed to the cold and rain without any food or shelter; five times robbed, and at last left almost naked, and being often in danger of his life, was at length relieved by the charity of some dervices, whose retreat in the mountains he had the good fortune to discover. But *Matteuse*, and the other *Armenians* left at *Balfrush*, did not come home till three weeks after, and escaped these severe hardships. At that town they received a passport from *Sadoc Aga*, under his seal, the pompous style of which, considering his circumstances, may give an idea of the idiom of the oriental languages, as well as of *Persian* folly. "To the victorious armies be it known, that *Matteuse* the *Armenian* is here. Let him not be molested, but live under our shadow."

Mr. *Hanway* now took leave of Mr. *Elton*, and set out for *Reshd*. He soon found that though *Ghilan* was said to have suffered less than any other province of *Persia* by the wars and cruelties of *Nadir*, yet the villages were in a ruinous condition. From *Langarood* to *Labi-jan* is seven miles. The latter being situated on an eminence, is esteemed the most healthy place in the province; for here the mountains open a passage for the wind. The rains had filled a large spot of ground, and formed a square regular piece of water, in which were abundance of wild fowl. In the center stood a
grove

grove upon a rising ground, that served to beautify the prospect, and render it as delightful as the rudeness of the season* would admit. Here he was received by *Habdgee Zamon*, who was distinguished for his good sense, as well as his authority in that place.

The *Habeggee** complained aloud of the Shah's cruelty, and of the inhumanity of those employed by him. Supper being brought in, a servant presented a basin of water, and with a napkin flung over his shoulders, went to every one in the company, and poured water on their hands to wash. A large salver, in the form of a tea-board, was set before every person, covered with a plate of pew, on which was a small quantity of minced meat mixed up with fruits and spices. There were also plates of comfits, several china basins of sherbets, as sweet, sour and other waters, with cakes of rice, and others of wheat flour, on which were sprinkled the seed of poppies, and others of the like nature. As they esteemed it an abomination to cut any kind of bread or meat, after it is dressed, these cakes are made thin, that they may be easily broken with the hand, and their meat which is generally mutton or fowls, is so prepared, that they divide it with their fingers. When every thing is set in order before them, they eat fast, and without any ceremony with their fingers, greasing their hands, and smearing their beards.

* This title is given to all who have gone in pilgrimage to Mecca.

Supper was no sooner over, than warm water was brought to wash, which being done, they resumed their discourse. And it is worthy of remark, that when the oldest man in the company speaks, though he be poor, and sits at the lower end of the room, all the rest pay a strict attention to what he says.

The company retired soon after supper, and beds were taken out of niches made in the wall for that purpose, and laid on the carpets. They consisted of only two thick cotton quilts, one of which was folded double, and served as a mattrafs, and the other as a covering, with a large flat pillow for the head. They usually sleep in their under garment and drawers: but the Princes and other great men use sheets, and other delicate appurtenances of a bed, though with less parade than is practised in *Europe*; nor do they crowd their apartments with superfluous furniture.

On the 18th Mr. *Hanway* set forward for *Reshd*, well pleased with his last night's entertainment, and the next day arrived at that city where he was visited by two *English* gentlemen who resided there, from whom he received great marks of friendship. He had also a visit from three *French* missionaries, who were sensible polite men. On the 20th Mr. *Hanway* paid a visit to *Ordo Kouli Beg*, Governor of the province, who was an old man, and received him with great civility. As the customs of *Europe* are known in this province, he immediately ordered a chair to be set for him. The apartment was full of people seated on felts of camels

camels hair, spread round the squares of the floor, the servants and soldiers standing in the area below. After some conversation, in which our Author related the misfortunes that had befallen him, he took his leave.

He here provided cloaths, bedding, kitchen furniture, tents, mules, and horses, as well as sabres and firelocks for his five attendants, upon which occasion he found that large mules are as dear there as they are in *Portugal*, where one cost him 62l. 10s. but they are incomparably the most useful animals in rocky countries, being very sure-footed, and able to carry great burthens for long journies. In the neighbourhood of *Reshd* are fields of rice, and plantations of mulberry-trees: some of the mountains are covered with cypress-trees, and others are composed of naked rocks piled upon each other to a great height, while the vallies are interspersed with villages, lawns, and arable lands.

On the 26th he pursued his journey, and the next day reached *Roodbar*, on the banks of the river *Kizilazan*, where the country is covered with olive, orange, and other trees. This place is situated on the declivity of a hill, from whence runs a stream of water that is conveyed by channels to the roots of the olive-trees, which the peasants here carefully cultivate, and though it was yet *February* the heat rendered travelling very fatiguing.

On the 28th he and his company passed the *Kizilazan* with his baggage in canoes, and they swam over the horses and mules; but the stream was so rapid that it carried some of them
near

near a quarter of a mile. As he ascended the mountains he found the climate much altered, and as the wind blew hard, he and his attendants were obliged to dismount, for fear of being blown down the precipices, the path, in many places, not being two feet wide. The mountain rises steep on one side, and the valley, in which are some branches of the *Kizilaxan*, is on the other. That day he travelled eighteen miles; next day the roads were very bad and he was obliged to cross the river thirty times in two hours, as the path conducted him; while the rocks on both sides rose perpendicular from the water.

On the first of *March* he travelled three farsangs, or twelve miles, over the mountains, and at length came to the great plain of *Casbin*, then covered three feet deep with snow, which reflected such brightness from the rays of the sun, as to be extremely painful to the eyes. The little villages on this plain are built so that half the houses are under the surface of the earth, and the tops of them formed into a cone, the better to carry off the snow. He that night took up his lodging in a ruined stable, and the next day set out before sun-rise, to avoid the danger of being blinded, as well as to enjoy the benefit of a firmer road.

On his arrival at *Casbin*, he paid his compliments to *Habdgee Abdulcrim*, the greatest merchant in the place, who provided him a handsome house near his own, and told him that it was impossible at that time to proceed on his journey on account of the snow.

The

The houses here are generally quite below the surface of the earth, as are many of the gardens below the level of the adjacent lands, in order to enjoy the convenience of water: for instead of bringing water up to their houses, as we do, they level their habitations to the water. They in general build with bricks dried in the sun, and their cement is a strong lime. Their roofs are flat, and it is not uncommon to sleep on the house top. These buildings are enclosed with a mud wall: they consist of two divisions; the outer one stands in a large area, and is a spacious room called the *Aviam*, one side of which is open and supported with pillars: they here dispatch their business, and eat, when they do not retire to the womens' apartment. Niches in the wall supply the place of tables: the floors are covered with large carpets; on the sides of the room hang felts about a yard broad, and two or three yards long, made with either wool or camels hair very soft, and used to sit upon. In the wings of this apartment are small rooms for lodging, and in the yard are the servants rooms, and the stables. Behind these is another building inclosed by a wall: this is the *Haram* or women's apartments, into which no man enters except the master of the house.

On the 3d of March, Mr. Hanway visited the *Hahdgee*, who entertained him at dinner with milk differently prepared, cheese somewhat like our curds, comfits and cakes of bread. They here make but two meals a day, the most considerable of which is in the evening. The
Hahdgee

Hahdgee enquired how he liked *Persia*, and on Mr. *Hanway's* mentioning the usage he had met with at *Astrabad*, he assured him that the Shah would do him justice; but complained of the poverty and misery to which the people were reduced, and then added, “*Casbin* had 12,000 houses inhabited, and now it has only 1100; see from this eminence how this poor city is in ruins! nor is *Ispahan* much better; that city had formerly an hundred thousand houses many of them not much inferior in splendor to the royal palace, which is the glory of the world: but I am assured that only five thousand houses are now inhabited. Alas! Sir, you know not to what misery we are reduced.” To this Mr. *Hanway* replied, “I am very sorry to hear your complaints, and to see so much reason for them; for *Casbin* indeed appears in ruins. When your Sovereign has accomplished his designs, surely he will change his system: he can never mean to destroy the people; for that would be in effect to destroy himself.”

Mr. *Hanway* soon after taking his leave, went to see the new palace built by *Nadir Shah* in that city, adjoining to the old one. Before the entrance is an avenue of lofty trees 300 yards long, and 15 or 20 broad. It is encompassed by a thick and lofty wall, about an *English* mile and a half in circumference, with only one entrance, which is an arched gate. Within it, are four large squares, adorned with lofty trees, fountains and running water. The apartments are raised about six feet from the ground

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ground: the Aviam, or open hall, is in the centre and shuts in with folding doors. The rooms are ornamented in the *Indian* taste, and the cieling formed into small squares, embellished with moral sentences in very legible characters. Most of the windows are of painted glass, in which the figures are drawn in their proper shades, and executed with great art; but many of the floors are only formed of hard earth, and others of a composition of beaten stone: these defects are, however, concealed by the constant use of carpets.

The Haram makes a magnificent appearance; it consists of a square within its own wall, which is of brick about thirty feet high and two and a half thick; there are four distinct apartments, in some of which are fountains that serve to moderate the heat of summer, by giving the air a refreshing coolness. The rooms are lined with stucco coloured in the *Indian* taste, with birds and flowers painted with the most beautiful colours, and adorned with gilt edgings; but the chimney-pieces are in a mean taste, and some are ornamented with looking-glasses in small squares of different dimensions set into the walls. There are a few rooms under ground, admirably contrived for coolness. Near the Haram is the Eunuch's apartment, remarkable only for its having but one door, and that a very strong one. Here are likewise some old apartments built by Shah *Abas*, in which are some bad paintings done by *European* painters: the *Persians* themselves are as ignorant of shades as the *Chinese*.

The city of *Cashin* is inclosed by a wall above a mile in each square, that has a great number of turrets and port-holes for arrows. It is famous in history for being one of the chief cities of the antient *Parthia*, the residence of many of the *Persian* Kings, and the burial-place of *Hephaestion* the favourite of *Alexander* the Great.

Mr. *Hanway* before his departure rode to see every thing worth notice, and in particular went to the market-place, which had once made a considerable figure; three parts of it were now in ruins; and old women appeared in the shops, which in former times was not practised. Here is a famous caravanfera, with a large entrance, and a magnificent dome; it has a great square surrounded with piazzas, within which are lodgings and apartments for the reception of merchandize: this edifice cost 27,000 crowns.

On the 11th of *March*, the weather being warm, and great part of the snow melted, Mr. *Hanway* set out with a caravan, in which five hundred thousand crowns were to be carried to *Shiras*, under a guard of 800 *Afghans*. As he travelled on hardly any thing took his sight but the ruins of towns and villages; the richness of the soil, and the softness of the climate, rendering this prospect so much the more lamentable. This country abounds with elks, which seem to be as fleet as birds, for none of the horses could reach them. The skeletons of several camels were lying near the road, the flesh of which had been consumed by wolves;

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for the camel is but ill qualified to travel upon the snow or wet ground; the breadth with which they carry their legs, when they slip, often occasions their splitting themselves: so that when they fall with great burthens, they seldom rise again. They are most useful in desarts and plain dry countries, and will travel two or three days with little or no water.

In *Persia* it seems an established custom for military people to pillage wh. ever they go, or at least to compel the inhabitants to procure them provisions: this often renders the peasants deaf to the calls of humanity. They arrived at a village where the houses were built with stone, and made so defensible that they could not procure an entrance, 'till they prepared to take a house by scaling the walls; on their approaching other villages, the inhabitants fled into the mountains, and left them to provide for themselves.

Mr. *Harway* at length found that all his *Persian* fellow-travellers were in the custody of a messenger, and took particular notice of one of them who was a *Ballouche*, one of the tribes in the eastern parts of *Persia*, who are almost black: he was well mounted, armed, and attended; but in debt to almost every one of the company, who apprehending him to be in no small danger of his life from the resentment of the Shah, demanded his horse and arms in payment. He gave them a silver caallean gilt, his bow and arrows, the quiver of which was covered with black velvet, and studded with gold nails. Though this man's annual appointment

did not exceed 250 crowns, and he had no other revenue; yet the value of his horses, mules, and their appurtenances; was not less than 1000 crowns. He was very communicative, and finding Mr. *Hanway*, an *European*, he spoke without reserve: "I am, said he, come from
 " *Ispahan*, where I have been two years raising
 " forces for the Shah, and have procured him
 " two thousand men; one thousand is the usual number which he annually draws from
 " that city. In return he has lately taken
 " from me 4000 crowns, and I am now under
 " the dread of some other act of violence. It
 " is no unusual thing with my master to send
 " for a man in order to strangle him; and for
 " my part I should be glad to compound for a
 " severe beating." He endeavoured to learn by heart a prayer, which if repeated right in the presence of the Shah, he said, would divert his wrath; but if falsely, increase it. He talked of the force of words, and the power of the Almighty: he also had another spell, which was the repetition of ten particular letters of the alphabet, as he entered the royal tent closing a finger at each, and keeping his fist clenched 'till he came before the throne; when he was suddenly to open his hands, and by the discharge of his magic artillery to subdue the King's wrath.

'Tis indeed amazing to see in how many instances the *Persians* demonstrate the highest superstition. The hands with the fingers interchanged, and some particular posture of the body, are considered as full of magic power.

Sneezing

Sneezing they hold a most happy omen; and they fancy that the meteors that resemble falling stars, are the blows of the angels on the heads of the devils. Cats are held in great esteem, but dogs in abomination, so that they are never permitted to come into any room, tho' they sometimes use them at their diversions. The *Turks* are not behind them in their folly. In the reign of *Shah Abas*, the Grand Signior sent to that Prince to desire, that as none but their prophet and his children had been dressed in green, none of his subjects might be permitted to wear that colour, especially in stockings. To this *Shah Abas*, who was a man of understanding, made answer, that if the Grand Signior would prevent the dogs pissing in the grafs in *Turky*, he would comply with the request.

On the 17th they arrived about noon at a small village, where an advanced guard of the army was posted to protect the villages, as is customary when the camp is near. The commander of the forces declared that he could not find quarters for the *Persians* in *Mr. Hanway's* company, and insisted upon their going directly to the camp, but on their declaring that they had paid for every thing they had upon the road, and that they were also charged with the care of *Mr. Hanway*, they were suffered to enter the village.

The fears of the *Persian* convoy increased as they approached nearer the camp, and the next day they took their leave of our Author with sorrowful countenances, demanding of their

conductor why he hastened them: "Dost thou know, said one of them, that to condemned persons every hour of life is of great moment?" Our Author now sent his interpreter to the Shah's minister appointed for the reception of strangers, to enquire where he should pitch his tent: but though they were so very near the Shah, some of the soldiers in this village did not refrain from calling him rascal in plain terms. On the 20th he set out for the camp, and having entered it, pitched his tent near the royal standard.



C H A P VIII.

The Author obtains a Decree from the Shah for the Payment of his Loss at Astrabad. A Description of the Persian Camp. Of the Shah's Women, and their Manner of Travelling.

OUR Author had now the satisfaction of learning that the rebellion at *Astrabad* was suppressed; but he had scarcely fixed his tent, when an accident had like to have deprived him of life; for his greater security he had caused his fire arms to be placed on the back part of the tent, and was walking in a pensive manner, when one of the servants moving a piece, it went off, and he narrowly escaped being shot. He was extremely alarmed lest the report of the musket, so near the royal pavilion, should have given offence, his own being

ing of cotton, was set on fire; but it was soon extinguished, and this accident was happily attended with no other consequence.

He immediately waited on *Mustapha Khan*, who received him with great professions of kindness, obliged him to dine with him, and assured him that justice should be done him. In the mean while he delivered his petition to the chancery; and was told that it was believed his Majesty would pardon the *Persians*, in whose company he came to *Casbin*, merely to do him honour.

The Shah passing from his haram to his tent of audience, gave Mr. *Hanway* an opportunity of seeing him; he was plainly dressed, except in precious stones. Some days after, the royal standard being taken down, as a signal for striking the tents, the army decamped, marching about two leagues and a half north-east, where another tent being prepared for the Shah, Mr. *Hanway* pitched his in company with the whole camp. In marching, the greatest part of the army kept in a collected, but irregular body: the followers of the camp covered several miles. The elephants and camels were employed only in carrying great burthens: the last are of several kinds, but the most serviceable are those with two bunches on their backs.

Mr. *Hanway* having delivered the bill he had received from *Mahommed Hassan*, the chief of the rebellion at *Astrabad*, to the amount of his loss, received a decree, by which it was ordered, that he should give the particulars of his loss in writing to *Behbud Khan*, the Shah's General
in

in *Astrabad*, who had orders to deliver to him whatever part of the goods might possibly be found, and to pay the deficiency out of the sequestered estates of the rebels without delay to the last penny. This was not quite what Mr. *Hanway* wished for, because it laid him under the necessity of returning to *Astrabad*.

Being now easy on the subject of his loss, he rode through the *Persian* camp, attended by his interpreter and another person, and informed himself of every particular relating to it. The tents of the ministers and officers were placed in the front, near that of the Shah, that they might always be near him. The quarter allotted for his tents was very large: before it was an avenue, one side of which consisted of a line of uniform tents, serving for guard-rooms, and on the other were the tents in which the affairs of the chancery, and other public concerns, were transacted. The pavilion, in which the Shah usually sat to give audience, was placed about 200 yards behind this avenue. It was an oblong supported by three poles, adorned at the top with gilt balls. The covering was of brick-coloured cotton cloth, and the lining of clouded silk. It had no appearance of magnificence, and the front was always open even in the worst weather; but when it was very cold several pots of charcoal were placed in the middle. The floor was covered with carpets, and the Shah sat cross-legged, sometimes upon these, and at others on a sofa. The back part of the tent was divided into small apartments, and on each side was a kind of alley, through which the attendants

tendants might walk round. At a considerable distance behind were the Shah's private tents, to some of which he retired at his meals. Almost contiguous to these were the tents of the Shah's ladies, which had several curtains that formed separate apartments one within another. The boundaries of the Shah's quarter were occupied by his eunuchs and female slaves, and almost his whole circuit, especially towards the residence of the women, was surrounded by a strong fence of net-work, round which patrolled the night guard, who severely punished all intruders.

The camp market begins at the end of the square fronting the guard rooms, and is about half a mile long. It consists of tents on each side like a street supplied with a variety of provisions, apparel, horse furniture, and other necessities, which are brought thither for sale. The officer who has the care of this market, rides up and down to keep order, and when any disputes arise, the contending parties are brought before the superintendant of the market, who acquires a considerable income from presents, fees, presents, and extortions. Many of the shopkeepers are little better than common futtlers. The great dealers are under the protection of some of the courtiers, who are themselves the principal traders in flour and rice. As these great men have many supernumerary servants, camels, and mules, they send them to distant provinces for rice, which they bring to the camp for sale, and make vast profits of it. The shopkeepers who presume to interfere

interfere with them in this branch of trade are generally marked out for destruction.

The regimental colours are a narrow slip of silk sloped to a point, some red, some white, and some striped. Several hours before the moving of the camp one of the standards was taken down by way of signal, and carried to the place where the new camp was to be pitched. The bulk of the army often moved an hour or two before the Shah; for in removing from one camp to another, he sometimes galloped the whole way.

Nadir had about sixty women, and nearly as many eunuchs, who generally rode near his person and kept pace with him. Before him went his running footmen, preceded by the chanters; and before them the watch guard. These spread a mile or two, and gave notice of the Shah's approach, by crying out, *Yertie*, or make way: but when they met with people in their rout, rivers, precipices, and rocks were no excuse, they drove at them with their maces, and made all before them fly at their approach. This was only when he travelled with his women; for when he travelled without them, people were permitted to come nearer. His ladies, and indeed other ladies of distinction, when in *Nadir's* company, rode on white horses, in the same manner as the men; but at other times were carried on camels seated in machines resembling a covered waggon, hung like panniers over a pack-saddle, and entirely concealed under a covering of crimson cloth. Ordinary women rode on horses and mules, and mixed among the

the crowd, had a linen veil over their faces, and wore great coats, like men; but the veils of the poorest covered their whole bodies. The *Uzbek Tartar* women were not so scrupulous about hiding their faces as the *Persians*. The females in the camp, except when on desperate enterprizes, are about one to ten males.

Nadir had four complete sets of horse furniture, one mounted with pearls, another with rubies, a third with emeralds, and a fourth with diamonds of a prodigious size, many of them being of the bigness of a pidgeon's egg. Mr. *Hawway* was equally surprized at their immense value, and the barbarous taste in which they were set. In a visit they made to *Mustapha Khan* he mentioned to him the prodigious value of the Shah's horse furniture, and observed, that the jewels in *Europe* appear incomparably brighter and neater set, and that if his Majesty would trust him with one of those bridles, he would procure a complete set of horse furniture to be made in *Europe*, which should exceed any thing that had yet appeared in the world: but the Khan replied, "My master has not patience enough to wait 'till it could be finished."

The officers and even the soldiers of rank, had the bridles of their horses mounted with silver with a mane-piece of plate, and an ornamental chain; likewise the sword, belts, and leathern accoutrements were mounted with the same metal. The handles of their battle-axes were generally studded or covered with thin silver plates. In their fashions about their waist
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they wore a knife, the handle and case of which were covered with silver. Some officers and persons of distinction were obliged to wear gold-cased knives, and some of their great men had silver stirrups. Thus *Nadir* endeavoured to keep them dependant, by obliging them to expend their money in articles of vanity.

The respect shewn Mr. *Hanway* by *Mustapha Khan*, who was considered as the most upright man in the *Persian* court, induced that gentleman to make him a present of a gold repeating watch, with some fine cloth and rich silk: this he seemed unwilling to receive; but Mr. *Hanway* insisting on his accepting it as a mark of his gratitude, he presented him in return some jewels which had once adorned the cap of some unhappy *Indian*. The principal jewel consisted of a large sapphire set in gold, and encompassed with diamonds; but these last were small, and bored through in the manner in which the *Asiatics* spoil their precious stones; the reverse of this place was enamelled with flowers.



C H A P. IX.

The Author's Journey from the Persian Camp to Langarood. A Description of the Country. An Account of the Persian Couriers. He is visited at Langarood by a Persian Mullab. An Account of the Persian Women, their Marriages and domestic Slavery; with a Description of the Province of Ghilan.

ON the 27th of March Mr. Hanway set out from the camp, and besides his other attendants, had two soldiers given him by *Mustapha Khan* for his guard. Though he now took a different road from that he passed before, he had every where the melancholy prospect of vast tracts of excellent arable land lying waste in one of the finest climates in the world: the houses of the deserted villages supplied only fuel, and he saw several maroders pulling them down for that purpose. The next day he passed through a ruined village covered on the opposite side with an inaccessible mountain: he here discovered five persons, who as he approached ran to their horses, which were ready saddled and tied to trees. These fellows took to their arms as if they meant to attack him, while he prepared for his defence; but his two soldiers seemed to have his preservation so little at heart, that they loitered behind, and entered into a party with them. This gave our

Author some uneasiness, and induced him to stop upon an eminence attended by one servant to see the issue of their conference, while the rest of his company were gone forward; but his interpreter soon rode back full speed, and blaming him for staying behind, declared, that if they did not keep together they might all be cut off; for he had discovered, that four of those men were gone round the hill, while one kept the soldiers in talk. His fears were not without foundation; for the soldiers, who soon came up, had purchased a stolen horse of these robbers, who acknowledged that the reputation the *Europeans* had acquired for their dexterity in the use of fire-arms, had been their greatest security.

On the 29th they ascended the mountain, and had no sooner reached the summit, than they found the air so extremely rarified, and the wind so piercing, that it was with difficulty they drew their breath. In the valley they found a very different climate, and *Abar* appeared before them in a delightful situation.

This city, however, was in much the same circumstances as the others, and it was not without difficulty they obtained a lodging. The mountains, over which lay their direct road, being still covered over with snow, they were under the necessity of going near three leagues about; and in the space of four leagues the road was so formed that they were obliged to pass a branch of the *Kizilazan* 65 times; one of the company having the curiosity to count them. This river was about 30 feet wide,

and

and two or three deep; the stream was rapid, and the bottom covered with rocks and stones. After a journey of ten hours, they arrived at a desolate caravansera where they found nothing but water; they had, however, provided themselves at a village on the road, where the inhabitants had entertained them with great hospitality.

On the 31st they travelled near ten hours without finding any provisions, and on their approaching the mountains that cover *Ghilan*, they found the reflection of the sun so strong, that it was with difficulty they defended themselves from the scorching heat. At length their drooping spirits, almost exhausted with fatigue and hunger, were supported by the sight of *Arsevil*, a small village; but they had the mortification to find only one narrow path to it, that was fenced up with large fir-trees and a great bank of earth. This raised a suspicion that the village was in a state of rebellion, and that it might be dangerous to force their way into it: necessity, however, silenced their scruples, and they with much difficulty removed the impediment, when they found that the villagers had made use of this expedient from their fear of the Shah's couriers, who without pity take, and without mercy ride, the horses of the poor inhabitants. Upon our Author's entering into the village, he and his attendants were received with marks of hospitality, for the peasants knew that they would pay for whatever they wanted: but they had not been in the village two hours before eight couriers arrived, armed

with muskets, though they generally wear only sabres.

These couriers wear a white sash, girded from their waists many times round their bodies: they take horses wherever they can find them, which they do not always return to the owners: they even dismount travellers, and often leave them to walk with their baggage. This occasions their being sometimes repulled and severely treated, though as they are employed in the Shah's business, an entire submission is required. Post-masters were supplied by the Shah's orders with thirty, forty, or fifty horses; but the demand for them is frequently greater than they are able to supply. One of these post-masters being charged by *Nadir* with not furnishing his couriers, answered, "That I have not supplied them is most certain, because for every ten horses you provided, you sent me 20 couriers, a man had better die at once than live to serve a rascal," and immediately stabbed himself. The Shah cried out, "He is a brave fellow, save him;" but it was too late.

While Mr. *Hanway* was at this village; he observed youths of twenty years of age armed with military authority, giving blows on the heads of those whose grey beards entitled them to reverence; this was done frequently for very trifling offences, and sometimes for no offence at all: nor could he restrain his own *Armenian* servants from following their example, till he assured them they should receive ten strokes for one.

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Our Author and his company having refreshed themselves, left the village in the evening, taking their rout over a high mountain, from whence they descended into a pleasant and fruitful valley, and crossing the *Kizilazan*, took up their lodgings at two leagues distance from *Arsevil*. Spring was already advanced to its highest bloom, the brightness of the sky, the water pouring from the rocks, the variegated verdure of the trees on the mountains, with the lawns and corn fields, filled the mind with the most pleasing ideas. Their eyes were frequently entertained with the most noble and extensive prospects, bounded by stupendous mountains rising gradually on each other; some had their summits covered with snow, while others concealed their heads in the clouds. In the valleys indeed appeared many ruined cities: but the serpentine course of the *Kizilazan*, with a variety of lawns and woods, finely diversified the scene. The mind is naturally delighted with the return of spring; but to Mr. *Hanway* it afforded the more pleasure, as the past winter had been attended with such circumstances of distress. How happy, says he, might *Persia* be, did not a general depravity of manners involve her inhabitants in such inextricable confusion; but how much more happy are those countries whose government is not despotic, and whose people are inspired with sentiments of virtue, and true religion; which alone can blunt the edge of those calamities to which human life is subject. The desolate country through which he had travelled for so many days, rendered

the beauties of *Ghilan* the more striking. *Arsevil* was bordered by olive-trees; the walks in the gardens were inclosed with vines, and the fruit-trees were in blossom: here were few proofs of art; but nature with a little industry, seemed to furnish all that was necessary or pleasant.

On the first of *April* Mr. *Hanway* passed through the narrow paths in the mountains that guard the province of *Ghilan*, in view of many pleasant valleys, and the next day arrived at *Reshd*, where he had the pleasure of seeing some of his friends. On the fourth he set out for *Langarood*, and arriving there the next morning, was kindly received by Mr. *Elton*, and the two *French* missionaries, who were then with him. The naval preparations carried on there, were conducted by Admiral *Mahommed Khan*, who was extremely ignorant in maritime affairs, and finding that Mr. *Hanway* was returned with success from the camp, he seemed afraid of his resenting his former conduct, being apprehensive that the value of the pistols he had presented to him was greater than it really was, and being ignorant how to use the screw-barrels, he offered to return them, to which our Author had no objection. Policy did not require the appearance of resentment on his part, and charity seldom warrants the reality of it. A mind superior to the injuries we suffer by the weakness or wickedness of others, seems to be the surest mark of that generosity of spirit which Christianity requires, and bids fairest to secure that tranquillity,

quility, which in a great measure constitutes our temporal happiness.

Mr. Hanway, was here visited by a Mullah or Persian Priest, who came in company with Shabverdie Beg, the person to whom he had been so much obliged: they entertained him with several quotations out of their poets, particularly with regard to the pleasures and miseries of life arising from the society of women, and expressed themselves upon this subject with great delicacy. After other remarks, the Mullah observed, that though their law permitted a man's having four wives, and did not restrain him in the number of his concubines, yet they always considered him as the most virtuous man, who confined himself to one wife, without any concubine, and the Mullah intimated, that it was his opinion, that celibacy seemed to be a war against nature, and was consequently a vice.

A woman in Persia is before her marriage examined with respect to her person, by the mother or some other female relation of the man; as the man is by the parent or friends of the woman. A report being made, the woman's parent demands the price, which being paid, the Kazzi or Judge, or where there is none, the Mullah marries them, very often without their having seen each other. The Persians may marry for a month or any time agreed upon between the parties, and they are at liberty to separate when the time is expired; but the women must not marry again immediately, unless she is certain of her not being with child

child. If she proves pregnant, the man is obliged to support her for a year; and if the child is a male it is his; if a female hers. Marriage, however, does not entitle the women to any distinguished privileges; for they are considered as little more than servile creatures, formed for the pleasure of their lords.

The women of *Ghilan* are very industrious; the common sort are often seen abroad without veils, planting rice, and performing other offices of agriculture; and at home they are employed in spinning and in different manufactures. Those in this province are fair, and their eyes and hair are black: but there, as in other places, they blacken their eyes by the use of a drug, which leaves a blackness on the eye-lids. They have a great esteem for large eyes; their features are small, their stature is low, and they have something delicate in their form: but in general the *Georgians* are most esteemed for their personal charms. Their children are very handsome when young, but the boys soon change their complexion. The girls who do not labour in the fields are seldom seen abroad, except in a morning before the sun rises, and then are covered with veils which reach down to their feet. When a lady of distinction travels on horseback, she is not only veiled, but has generally a servant who runs or rides before her to clear the way; and on such occasions the men always turn their backs till the women are passed; for it is thought the greatest ill manners to look at them. The care of concealing their faces to avoid

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avoid the imputation of acting indelicately and contrary to custom, has made such an impression on them, that our Author was told of a woman, who being accidentally surprized when bathing, shewed her whole person, except her face, to hide which, she employed all her solicitude.

The *Persians* are as much governed by outward appearance as any other nation; hence our factors in the south of *Persia* have, from motives of policy, carried this affair much farther than those who come from the cold regions of *Russia*; they have had their gold caalleans, rich sashes, running footmen, led horses, &c. Their dress was *Persian*, except the wig and hat, and their garments were lined with fables. Shah Sultan Hussein gave them a noble palace and fine gardens; and at a public entertainment made for that Prince, the factors once spread the ground with scarlet cloth, for him to walk on from the royal palace to their own, and afterwards gave it to the soldiers. This conduct was political among so ostentatious a people as the *Persians*, and doubtless had good effects: but the invasion of the *Afghans* prevented the continuance of it. Mr. Elton, however, thought it became the rank he bore in the Shah's service, to have four running footmen to attend him; his Adjutant was finely mounted, and carried a light fowling piece at the head of the cavalcade, and the rear was brought up by his caallean bearer on horseback, who carried a leather pannier filled with outward garments, provisions and the like.

Ghilans

Ghilan is covered on one side, by a range of mountains nearly in the form of a crescent. What greatly adds to its beauty is the abundance of timber and other wood, and the romantic scenes it every where affords. At the foot of the mountains, to the eastward near the bay, is a hot bath much esteemed for its medicinal virtues; the water of which is of a yellowish colour. All the passes into *Ghilan* are very difficult, and hence the Kings of *Persia* have hardly ever been able to keep the inhabitants of the southern coasts of the *Caspian* sea in subjection.

Reshd, the metropolis of *Ghilan*, was, about 20 years before our Author's being there, surrounded by a thick wood, which rendered it extremely unwholesome: but the *Russians* no sooner possessed this part of the province, than they cleared the ground for near 15 miles to the southward, and a prospect is now opened that is only bounded by the mountains whose tops rise so high, that they are generally covered with snow throughout the whole year. The air of this province, tho' admirably adapted to the cultivation of raw silk, and rice, of which there are greater plenty here than in any other part of *Persia*, is far from being healthy; for the numerous mashes occasioned by the overflowing of the *Caspian* sea, the fields of rice often laid under water, and the vicinity of the mountains covered with wood, contribute to hurt the air, especially when the heat of the sun is violent and the exhalations strong. There are here innumerable swarms of frogs, gnats, and

and spiders; the extraordinary moisture of the earth breeds insects even in their own houses, and the air is so productive of rust, that it is difficult to preserve even the work of a watch. The inhabitants observe, that women, mules, and poultry enjoy health, when all other animals pine away with sickness; whence it may be inferred that their confinement contributes to their preservation. In the year 1714, such an incredible quantity of snow fell, that the inhabitants at *Reshd* had some days no communication with each other, but from the house tops, which are, however, not very lofty. They even assured our Author, that in some places the snow was seven yards deep.

The people here enjoy a long spring, during which their lawns and meadows are strewed with flowers, and the bushes with roses, and honeysuckles. The soil, which is exceedingly fertile, produces some hemp and hops, and almost every kind of fruit without culture; for, besides pomegranates, peaches, oranges, and lemons, here are abundance of grapes, the vines supporting themselves on the trees, and growing wild in the mountains; so that a great part of the province is a perfect paradise, notwithstanding the many inconveniences that attend it. However, their grapes, for want of cultivation, are not the most excellent, nor will they make tolerable wine without a mixture of raisins from the southern parts of the empire; but these, fermented together, produce very good wine. Their other fruits are reckoned unwholesome, especially to foreigners,
and.

and in particular the peaches and figs partake much of the pernicious moisture that predominates in the lower parts of the province. *Ghilan* is also remarkable for producing great quantities of box, of which camels are extremely fond, though it is immediate death if they eat it; for which reason there are few or no camels brought into the province, their caravans consisting of horses, mules, and cows that carry burthens like other animals.



C H A P . . X.

The Author sets out on his second Journey from Langarood to Astrabad. A Description of the Province of Mazanderan, with the Cities of Amul and Balfrush. He is entertained at the Seat of Mahommed Khan. A short Description of the Causeway built by Shah Abas, and of the famous Palace of Athress. Pyramids of human Heads at the Entrance of Astrabad. Cruelties exercised on the Rebels; and the Manner of executing Malefactors in Persia.

ON the first of May in the evening, Mr. Hanway set out for *Astrabad*. Besides Mr. Loftus, Mr. Elton's interpreter, who had been with him in the camp, he also took *Mattense* the old *Armenian*, who was with him when the rebellion broke out. There were six persons in company, well armed, and *Mahommed Khan* had promised to furnish them with a convoy of fifty soldiers

soldiers if necessary: for some of the inhabitants of *Mazanderan* as well as *Astrabad*, having been in the rebellion, and knowing that part of the money our Author was to receive, would be levied on their relations, there was reason to apprehend they would obstruct their journey, if they had a favourable opportunity of doing it.

The first evening they were benighted and lost in a wood, tho' they had successively procured several guides; but they all ran away, from the fear of being used ill. In this perplexity they advanced towards a house, where they saw a light, but found the entrance barricaded with trees. In vain did they use intreaties to persuade the master of it to conduct them to *Radizar*; these being ineffectual, they broke into the house, and tying a rope to one of his arms, compelled him to conduct them. Unwarrantable as this conduct may appear, it was agreeable to the practice of *Persia*, and now seemed absolutely necessary; but having conducted them to *Radizar*, he was paid handsomely for his trouble, and suffered to return home.

The next day they entered the province of *Mazanderan*, the weather being extremely delightful. On the fourth the horses and mules being at pasture, were visited by a wolf of a very extraordinary size; but being driven off by a guard set for such purposes, the animal contented himself with killing a cow. In the morning they set out early, and coming up with a detachment of 50 soldiers, the commander courteously offered his service to guard them

Mr. *Hanway* observed, that some of the lower parts of *Maxanderan* nearly resemble *Ghilan*; but not being so closely incircled by mountains, the air is more pure and free. This province also abounds with water, many streams of which issue from the springs in the higher ground. The country is as fruitful as *Ghilan*, and being much healthier, the inhabitants are stronger and more robust. It furnishes great quantities of cotton, and is the only province in the north of *Persia*, that produces sugar.

Mr. *Hanway* presented the commander of the fifty men, with cloath for a coat, and he being obliged to leave them, gave them ten of his soldiers for a guard; but as they advanced deeper into the province, the peasants grew insolent, and one of them seized the commander of the ten men by his throat. It is very dangerous coming to extremities with these people; for if they beat or distress any one, they are punished so severely, that they think it best to commit murder, to prevent a discovery; and if that is found out, they even then sometimes hide themselves in their mountains. The house assigned Mr. *Hanway* for his lodging, being inhabited by women and children, that humane gentleman thought it his duty to comply with their intreaties, and therefore removed, and pitched his tent: but night drawing on, he discovered that he was in a very bad neighbourhood; for the villagers had appeared in arms in the late rebellion, and these people, imagining him to be extremely rich, would not be persuaded, but that all the brass buttons worn

by

by those in his company were of gold: their Chief boasted of his great dexterity in the use of fire-arms; as a specimen of which before it was dark, he killed a small bird on a lofty tree with a single ball. The villagers, however, being now filled with apprehensions, that this convoy had orders to seize them, took their arms and retired. The inhabitants of the neighbouring mountains were no less disaffected, and several horsemen entered the village in the night; but finding Mr. *Hanway* and his company on their guard, they turned back.

The dangerous situation our Author had been in during the night, made him leave this place with great satisfaction. By seven in the morning, the sun was extremely hot; but he found the *Persians* were not so afraid of the sun as the *Portuguese*, who seldom travel without a cloak and umbrella, and also use skull-caps of paper, or a cabbage leaf under their hats; but the common people here only secure the crown of the head with a silk quilted scull-cap, and often leave the rest of the head bare. About nine they took shelter in a wood, and pitched their tents, resolving to travel only in the evening or at night. On the 7th they travelled five leagues, and early the next morning struck their tents; but the soldiers, contrary to their engagement, had left them in the night to take care of themselves.

As they approached towards *Amul*, the country appeared still more pleasant: that city is situated in a plain at the foot of Mount *Taurus*

and is watered by a river, over which is a fine bridge of twelve arches. The *Persians* have a tradition that if any Governor or Commander passies over it on horseback, he will soon be deprived of his office, if not of his life; and that whoever would not be persued by ill fortune, ought to walk over it: however, tho' the stream is rapid and the water foul, the *Persians* generally ford it, and as our Author did not chuse to be regarded as a person excluded from the common bounties of Heaven, he thought proper to walk over the bridge, leading his horse. He there found the ruins of an old fortress, which had been built of brick, and had been stronger and more regular than any building of that kind he had seen in *Persia*. Here is also a palace built with stone, in which the famous *Shah Abas* often resided: it commands a pleasant prospect, and is well contrived for coolness and convenience. The garden is remarkable for the size and height of its cypress trees.

In this city Mr. *Hanway* met a writer in the service of *Mahommed Khan*, who received him with great civility, and expressed much concern at his being ignorant of his circumstances, when he was in his company retiring before the *Turkumans*. Having given him an account of the suppression of the rebellion; he invited him to hear his music: one instrument resembled a flute, another a guittar, and a third a kettledrum, at the same time an old man and two boys sung and danced. The last accomplishment is taught to none but those who hire themselves

themselves to divert others : dancing being considered as mean and ignoble. The boys moved their heads, legs, and arms, in a very extravagant manner. The writer then sent for a priest, remarkable for being a good singer, who raised his voice to an amazing degree ; his quavers were mixed with harsh guttural sounds, and the distortions of his visage, created horror rather than delight ; nor was the instrumental music less disagreeable.

The people of *Amul*, as in many other parts of this coast, begin in *May* to retire into the neighbouring mountains, where they live in tents, and enjoy cool breezes, delightful shades, plenty of fruit, the most delicious water, with an extensive prospect of a fine country below them. They have a great deal of rice and wheat, and also printed cottons, in which articles they trade with the neighbouring provinces.

On the 9th in the evening Mr. *Harway* left *Amul*, and travelled through a delightful country 'till two in the morning, when after resting with his company in tents, they departed for *Balfrush*, the capital of the province. He there learnt that upon the news of the defeat of the rebels, the Governor appointed by *Sadoc Aga* was seized, and holes being cut in his flesh, lighted candles were fixed in them. In this barbarous manner this unhappy rebel was led naked about the market place, 'till he expired with loss of blood.

On the 11th, Mr. *Harway* visited *Mahommed Khan*, whose house was in a delightful situation a few miles from the city. It had nothing like

grandeur; but the adjacent woods and rivulets gave it an air of simplicity, and rendered it more pleasant than the most magnificent palace, where nothing is to be seen but finished strokes of art. In the area before the house, 150 men were drawn up under arms in two double lines. Mr. *Hanway* alighted at some yards distance, and bowing with his hand on his breast, advanced towards the Khan, who was seated in his aviam, and received him with great expressions of kindness, and as a proof of his regard, released a man who was tied and condemned to be beaten, telling our Author that he did it for his sake, and to do him honour. Mr. *Hanway* made him a present of some fine cloths, and a case of choice drams, of which the Khan was immoderately fond. Having prevailed on our Author to stay all night, he ordered poultry and sheep to be killed, resolving to shew him such favours as would wipe off the stains his reputation had suffered by his ill treatment of him before, for which he now made an apology. After dinner he sent for the dancers and music, who tormented our Author the whole evening; his nerves being too weak to bear the noise made by eight instruments and singers; but tho' an *European* ear cannot be reconciled to their taste in music, yet ours is agreeable to them. When the dancing men had ended, they presented Mr. *Hanway* an orange, which was a civil way of desiring payment for their trouble. At length the Khan invited him to drink brandy with him, and on his refusal, expressed great surprize, that he, being an *European* and a
Christian,

Christian, was not fond of spirituous liquors. As soon as he retired, the Khan and his companions could not refrain from drinking the strong waters he had presented him: their usual way is for each person to have a plate of sweetmeats before him, and then they drink their liquor in tea cups 'till they are drunk, which is generally soon accomplished.

The next morning Mr. *Hanway* visited the monument of the Khan's favourite wife, who had been lately buried in a wood near his house. It had an epitaph, in which, according to the common sense of mankind, life was compared to a flower that blossoms in the spring, and in the summer appears in the full lustre of its beauty, but in autumn begins to wither and decline, and when winter comes on, every gust of wind blows it to the ground, where it lies and rots.

Mr. *Hanway*, having five men for his guard, left *Balfrush*, and travelled three leagues through a fine country to *Alleabad*, where is a palace of a mean appearance, but pleasantly situated. The most important monument of antiquity in this country, is the causeway built by *Shah Abas* the Great, about the beginning of the last century, from *Keskar* in the south west corner of the *Caspian* to *Astrabad*, and several leagues farther. it being in all near 300 *English* miles long: it has hardly ever been repaired, but as there are few or no wheel carriages used, in this country, the pavement is in many places very perfect: it is raised in the middle, with ditches on each side, and in some parts is above twenty yards broad. From *Alleabad* to *Sari*, this causeway

is for above a league together bordered on each side by a thick wood, whose luxuriant branches afford a delightful shelter to travellers. The prospect is variegated with many avenues that open into meadows and fields of rice.

The inhabitants of *Sari* were in a miserable condition, complaining loudly of the Shah, and no less of *Sadoc Aga* and his *Turkuman Tartars*.

Here are four temples of the *Gebers* or worshippers of fire, who formerly inhabited all this coast: these edifices are made of the most durable materials, and are rotundas of about 30 feet in diameter, raised to a point of near 120 feet in height.

On the 14th they continued their rout through a fine country to *Asbress*: the causeway is here much decayed, but Shah *Abas*, who was fond of this country, built a lodge every two leagues for his refreshment in travelling. From one of these buildings they had a full view of the great mountain *Demoan*, on which the *Persians* say the ark rested, while the *Armenians* ascribe this honour to mount *Ararat*, which is also visible in clear weather on the western coast of the *Caspian*, if what was shewn to our Author was the real *Ararat*.

In the afternoon they arrived at *Asbress*, where is a celebrated palace built by Shah *Abas*, which far exceeds any on the coast of the *Caspian* sea. Over the entrance are the arms of *Persia*, a lion with the sun rising behind him, alluding to the strength and glory of the *Persian* monarchy. Within this gate is a long avenue, on each side of which are thirty apartments,

ments, intended for the guards. The next gate in front opens into a garden, in the midst of which is a channel made with stone, about three feet wide and one deep, through which runs a stream of water that has four cascades of about an ell high, thirty yards distant from each other, each having a small bason and fountain : on the sides near the stream holes are cut to fix candles at equal distances, to the number of about a thousand, which must have a fine effect. At the head of the stream is a large stone bason six feet deep. In the adjacent building is a sumptuous aviam painted with gold flowers well executed on a blue ground, and several portraits that seem to be done by a *Dutchman*, but no masterly hand. On the sides of the aviam are several small apartments, and behind this building are three other falls of water, that pour down the sides of a steep mountain covered with wood.

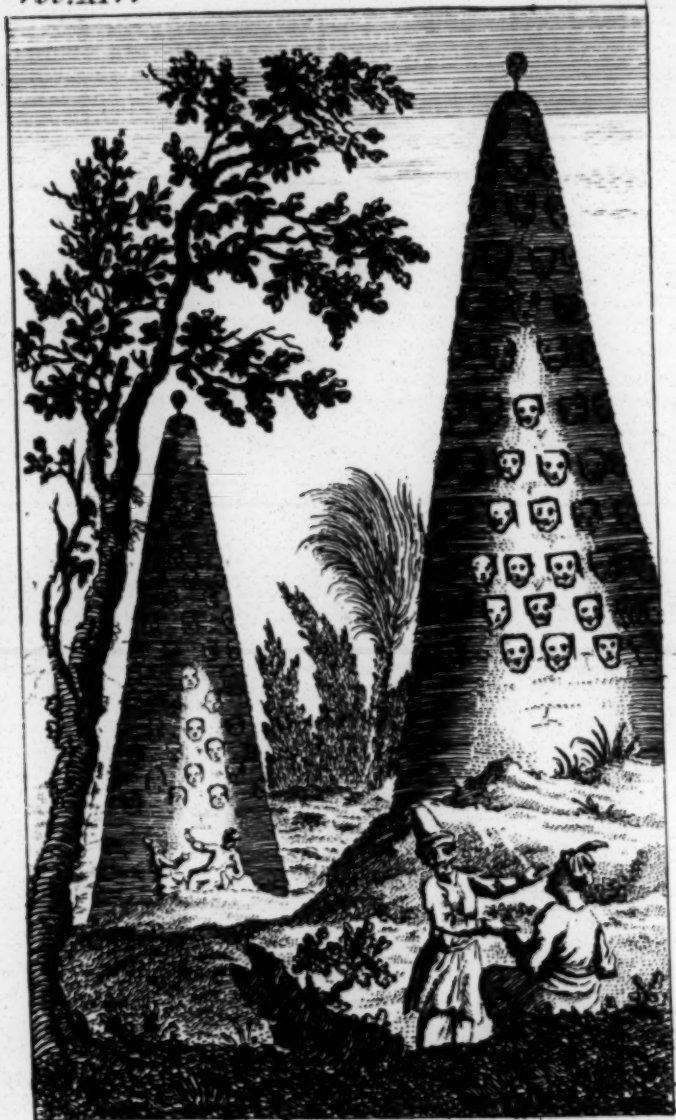
The garden chiefly consists of walks bordered with large pines, orange, and other fruit trees disposed in beds, with streams of water flowing between them. From thence they went to another garden much in the same taste, in which stood the haram ; but though nobody was in it, it was considered as sacred, and they were not permitted to enter it. Before this building was a large bason of water, and here were also cascades, as in the other garden. From thence they were conducted to a banquetting house dedicated to a grandson of *Ali* ; and out of respect to this place, they were desired to leave their swords at the door. The solemnity with which

our

our Author was conducted in, struck him with a kind of awe, which was soon changed to contempt, from his seeing the room adorned with such paintings as could only please a voluptuous *Mahometan*. Here were also portraits of Shah *Abas* the first and second, and some other persons, all poorly done by an *European* hand. They were now shewn a fourth house and garden, in which was a stately dome, whose top was indifferently well painted, and the walls were covered with *Dutch* tiles as high as the gallery. On an eminence at some distance, was a small building that seemed intended for an observatory. The whole commands the view of a very fine country, and of the *Caspian* sea, which is about five miles distant: the vicinity of the mountains on the back of the palace, the numerous cascades and the warbling of the birds, gave our Author many pleasing ideas; but the unhappy situation of the people incessantly recurred to his thoughts, and damped the pleasure he would otherwise have enjoyed.

On the 15th they left *Ashreff*, and upon the road met a courier with a letter from *Mirza Mahommed*, to beseech Mr. *Hanway* to hasten his journey, and use his interest to save his life. As they approached *Astrabad*, they met several armed horsemen carrying home the peasants whose eyes had been put out, the blood yet running down their faces. Near the entrance of the city on each side was a pyramid built of stone, whitened over and made full of niches; they were about sixteen or twenty feet
in

7 AP 53



*Pyramids of Heads at the entrance
of Astrabad.*

in diameter at the base, and rising gradually near forty feet, each had a single head at the top, and the greatest part of the niches were filled with human heads, several of which had beards, and being set a little projecting, added to the horror of this shocking sight.

On the 16th of May Mr. *Hanway* entered *Astrabad* a second time. He now found it a scene of misery and desolation: for he was informed that the execution of that day consisted in putting out the left eyes of thirty men, beheading four, and burning one alive, who had been a captain in the rebel guard: 200 women were sent out of the city, 150 of whom were ordered to be sold to the soldiers as slaves. The next day he passed through several streets, which seemed to have no inhabitants but soldiers, and a few old women. Mr. *Hanway* sent a present to *Bebbud Khan*, the King's General, and followed it himself; he found him seated in his aviam, with his soldiers drawn up in a semi-circle before him, and was employed in judging and condemning the unhappy wretches, one or two of whom were brought before him at a time.

After the first compliments Mr. *Hanway* took the Shah's decree in both his hands, and lifting it up to his head, delivered it to the General, who stood up to receive it, and raising it up to his forehead, gave it to his secretary to read. On Mr. *Hanway's* desiring that it might be speedily executed, he promised that it should, and then presented him sweetmeats and large white mulberries, which are a delicious fruit.

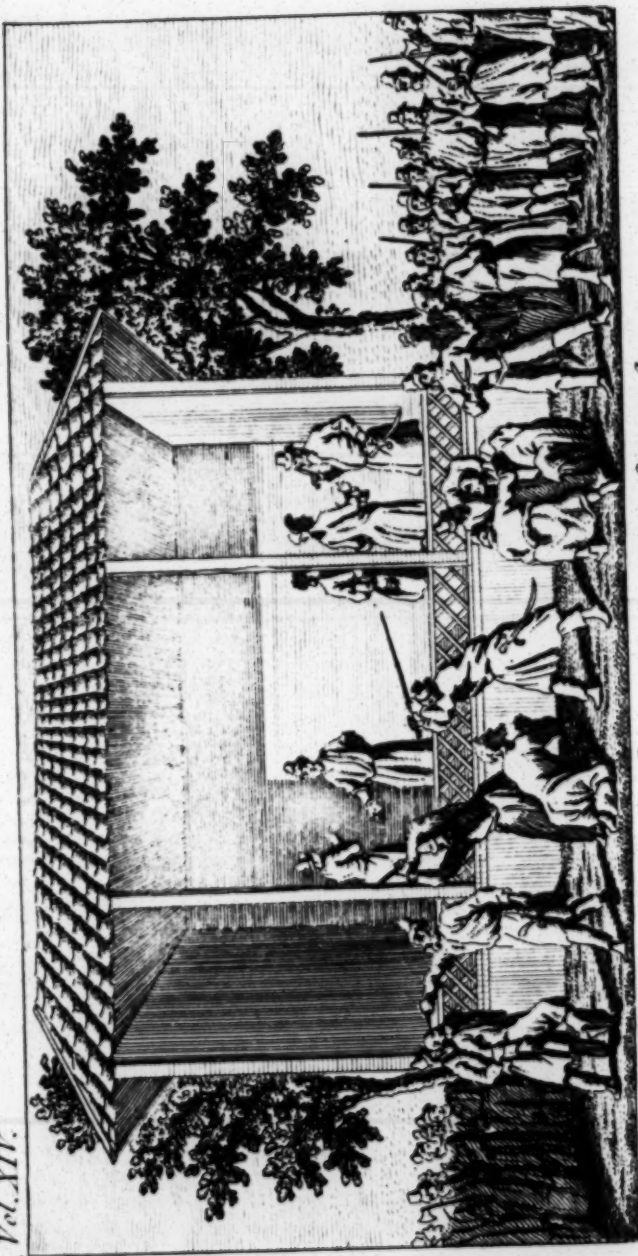
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While he was eating, the prisoners were taken from his presence, and the secretary made a complimentary speech on the usefulness of merchants, observing that they brought wealth into countries, were serviceable to Kings, and ought not to be offended by any, but protected by all parties.

After a short repast, a prisoner, was severely beaten with sticks, and the soldiers were ordered to spit in his face, and to put out his eyes. When the soldiers were dragging him to execution, he begged with bitter cries that he might rather suffer death; the General, whose heart seemed made of the same stuff as his sword, refused this cruel mercy; and ordering him to be recalled for further enquiry, suspended the execution.

Sadoc Aga, the rebel General, who had a principal share in taking Mr. *Hanway's* caravan of cloth, and insulting him by his jests, was then brought before the General. When Mr. *Hanway* saw him last he was a youth of more than common vivacity, was richly dressed, well armed, and full of mirth. But alas! how was the scene now altered! his garb was mean, and his eyes were deprived of their light; he drooped his head, and his voice was changed. The General asked about our Author's goods, and told him he must pay for them: to which he answered, "All I know
 " of them is, that they were taken by *Mahomed Hassan*, and by him distributed to
 " his people. Would to God that *Mahomed Hassan* and his whole house had been buried
 " deep

7 AP 52



The Cruelties exercised on the Rebels.

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“ deep in the earth ’e’re I had heard of his
“ name! And how can I pay for the goods?
“ I have nothing left but this mean garb that
“ you see upon my back: indeed this is suffi-
“ cient: you have already deprived me of my
“ fight, and of what use is life to me?” This he
expressed with that emotion natural to a daring
spirit, but the General cruelly ordered him to
be struck across the mouth to silence him; which
was done with such violence, that the blood is-
sued forth.

Sadoc Aga being removed, *Mirza Mahommed*
was brought with two large logs of wood fitted
to the small of his legs and rivetted together;
a heavy triangular wooden collar was also on
his neck, which likewise served as a handcuff
to his left wrist. Mr. *Hanway* might now have
said, “ How wise you are!” as he said to him
when he saw him last; but he had too much hu-
manity to insult the wretched, and there being
no mercy to be found there, he took no notice
of his former behaviour; but departed abruptly,
having his heart too full of the dreadful objects
he had seen.

He then visited *Mahommed Hussein Khan*, the
father of him who was the Governor of *Astra-
bad* before the rebellion, and had been charged
with the murder of *Shah Tahmas*, the last law-
ful sovereign of *Persia*. He received our Au-
thor with great politeness, assuring him in the
strongest terms, that he would not leave the
place ’till his business was done, agreeably to
the Shah’s order; and among other things said,
“ I am charged with a particular commission to
VOL. XIV. X “ see

“ see the rebels punished: I must do that for
 “ which I know I shall be damned; the Shah
 “ will have it so. Well! to-morrow is a day
 “ of blood, and I will make them pay you,
 “ tho’ I pull the money out of their throats.”

Mr. *Hanway* had too much humanity to thank him for his bloody intention; for tho’ these unhappy rebels had acted as if they meant to devote themselves to ruin, yet an opposition to such execrable tyranny wanted only more force and wisdom to give it the stamp of glory: nor could our Author behold without horror, a man, whom a blind obedience to his Prince could induce to shake hands with everlasting perdition.

The next day in the evening eight *Turkuman Tartars* being taken in the road, were brought to that city, upon which the General expressed great satisfaction, observing that many niches in his pyramid were yet unfilled; one of them being called *Sais*, and the other having the name *Mahommed Hussein Khan*. The execution of a malefactor in *Persian* is performed with little ceremony, he is taken to a field or open place near the residence of the military judge, and the executioner causing him to kneel, he pronounces his creed, “ There is but one God, *Mahommed* “ is his prophet, and *Ali* his friend:” his head is then taken off with the motion of a sabre, with a thrusting cut, which in drawing back completes the operation.



C H A P. XI.

The Difficulties Mr. Hanway meets with in recovering his Money and Effects. A Description of the Persian Paper and Ink: Of the everlasting Fire of the Gebers near the City of Baku, and and of the Springs of Naptha, near the Caspian Sea.

MR. Hanway now visited his good friend *Nazeer Aga*, who had received a reward from the Shah for the services he had performed during the rebellion. The old man expressed a high satisfaction at seeing him after the great dangers to which they had both been exposed. A few days after *Nazeer Aga* informed Mr. Hanway by letter, of the arrival of Captain *Woodroose* in *Astrabad* bay; and as the *Turkumans* and *Ogurtjoys* were in arms against the *Persians*, and possessed a great number of boats, he thought it unsafe for the ship to be in the road. In answer to this letter our Author thanked him for his advice, and told him that he did not fear those barbarians; for if they should come in numbers like a swarm of bees, they would meet their destruction from the great guns. This was proper language for him to talk where the *Turkumans* had their spies, and were it not for the terror of Captain *Woodroose's* four three pounders, the sam he was preparing to send

on board might have induced them to attack the ship at anchor, and as some of these boats had twelve or fourteen hands well armed, they might have found it difficult to defend the ship: however, they had provided close quarters and powder chests; so that they could not have taken it without a manner of fighting to which they were entire strangers.

On the 21st, *Myrza Mabommed* delivered to Mr. *Hanway* the greatest part of his baggage, of which he had been so careful, as to conceal it in a well, by which it received some damage; and also paid him as much of the money as was in his hands, as he said was in his power; though it was evident that if the rebellion had succeeded, he would have deprived him of the whole; but he hoped that Mr. *Hanway* would intercede in his favour. The next morning that gentleman went to the two Khans, who were together, and had just condemned, and ordered for execution, 21 persons, and informed them that *Myrza* had delivered his baggage, and that he hoped he would receive the King's mercy. *Mabommed Houssein Khan* asked, if he desired he should be saved? to this he answered in the affirmative, and that he should consider mercy shewn to *Myrza*, as a particular mark of favour. To which the other replied, "For your sake then
 " he shall be saved: his Majesty has shewn you
 " great honour, and it is my business to do
 " the same." Mr. *Hanway* having returned his thanks, and *Myrza* being sent for was in-
 formed

formed that for Mr. *Hanway's* sake he was pardoned, and immediately his collar and log were cut off.

Our Author had before received, in single pieces and cuts of cloth, to the amount of 1600 crowns. A much greater value had been found in the city; but the General converted it to his own use. Some time after he received 3000 crowns more, and was desired to take a part of the payment in female slaves, which he absolutely refused. At the same time the General, being informed that our Author was only thirty-two years of age, expressed great astonishment at his hoary locks, 'till he was told that what he took for his hair was only a wig.

On the 5th of June, Mr. *Hanway* pressing *Mahommed Hussein* Khan and the General for the payment of the rest of his money, the former wanted him to take his obligations for it, payable in ten or fifteen days, and the General being obliged to march, cried, "I cannot go from hence without the receipt; the King will demand it of me, and if you do not give it me, I will kill men 'till I get the money:" But Mr. *Hanway* answered, "I hope no man will die on my account; but I cannot answer it to the merchants my principals, to give a receipt for the money, in exchange for any obligation whatsoever."

Some days after Mr. *Hanway* went to *Kourdiemalla*, guarded by five horse and ten foot soldiers, carrying with him seven bales of cloth,

and nine bags of money, with other things to the value of 11,000 crowns, taking care to let no-body know when he intended to leave the town, 'till he actually set out. But he had the mortification to be forsaken by his guard, and left in a thick wood, three *English* miles from the place of embarkation; he, however, got safely on board with the money and goods, and the next day returned to *Astrabad*. On the 29th he went again on board with 5000 crowns more, leaving *Matteuse* his old *Armenian* clerk and two servants to solicit for the remainder due on the Shah's decree.

While Mr. *Hanway* was at *Astrabad*, he received a letter from the Shah's nephew, who was Governor of *Mesched*, in answer to one he had wrote to him in relation to the payment for the pistols inlaid with gold, and other curiosities, which Mr. *Elton* had provided for him by express commission: but this great man had so little sense of honour, that he returned them on Mr. *Elton's* hands, though they were utterly unvendable, alledging that they were too good for him.

The *Persian* paper, on which they write their letters, is made of cotton and silk rags, and afterwards a gloss is set upon it by rubbing it with a smooth stone or shell; but it is so soft and liable to be torn, that they roll it up. Their letters are wrote on small slips of paper in few words, and with great exactness, for their characters are rather drawn than written, no interlineations or blots being ever suffered:

they

they are then made up in rolls about six inches long, and a piece of paper being fastened round them with gum, it is sealed with an impression of ink, which resembles our printers ink, but it is not so thick; it is composed of a mixture of burnt rice, galls, and gum, and answers the double purpose of ink and wax, as it serves not only for writing, but for subscribing with their seal. Their pens are made of reeds brought from the southern parts of *Persia*; and in their rings they wear agates, which generally serve for a seal, there being frequently engraved on them the wearer's name, with some verse of the Koran.

Mr. *Hanway* having lived some time in a very friendly manner with Mr. *Elton* at *Langerood*, went to *Lahijan* for the recovery of his health, he having been for a considerable time very ill; and from thence he removed to *Reshd*. Mr. *Elton*, who had used him with the extremest kindness, was about this time much offended at the conduct of Mr. *Hanway*'s employers in *Europe*, for their submission to the *Russian* court, and being apprehensive of our Author's making a just representation of his engagements with the Shah, which were absolutely inconsistent with the views of the *Russia* company, and of carrying on the trade into *Persia*, he suddenly became our Author's most bitter enemy.

Before Mr. *Hanway* takes leave of *Persia* he gives some account of the religion of the *Gebers*, which is still preserved by some of the posterity of the ancient *Indians* and *Persians*. This religion

religion was founded by *Zoroaster*, who lived about the year of the world 2860. This great philosopher being struck with the demonstrations he observed of the perfection of that self-existent Being who is the Author of all good, and being at a loss how to account for the introduction of evil into this world, thought there were two principles or beings, one the cause of all good, whom he imagined resembled the light, the other the author of all evil, whom he represented by darkness. Thus considering light as the most perfect symbol of true wisdom, and darkness as the representative of whatever is hurtful and destructive, he inculcated an abhorrence of all images, and taught his followers to worship God only under the form of fire; considering the brightness, activity, purity, and incorruptibility of that element, as bearing the most perfect resemblance of the nature of the good Deity. Thus the *Persians* shewed a particular veneration for the sun, as the brightest image of God; and offered up their sacrifices in the open air, and generally on the top of a hill; for they esteemed it injurious to the Majesty of the God of Heaven, to shut him up in walls who fills immensity with his presence.

About 600 years after the first *Zoroaster*, another philosopher of the same name arose, who taught, that under the Supreme being there are two angels, the one of light, who is the author of all good, and the other of darkness, who is author of all evil; that they by a mixture of light and darkness made all things, and are

in a perpetual struggle with each other. That where the angel of light prevails, there good reigns; and where the angel of darkness, there evil predominates. That this struggle shall last 'till the end of the world, when the angel of darkness, with his followers, shall for ever be separated from the light; but those who cherish their spiritual nature, and obey the angel of light, shall go with him into a world where they shall be rewarded amidst everlasting brightness, and triumphant glory. In short, this last *Zoroaster* caused temples to be built, in which the sacred fire was ordered to be constantly preserved.

These opinions, with a few alterations, are still preserved by the *Gebers*, or *Gaurs*, the posterity, as we have said, of the ancient *Indians* and *Persians*, who are very zealous in preserving the religion of their ancestors, particularly with respect to their veneration for fire.

What is commonly called the everlasting fire, is a phenomenon of a very extraordinary nature. This object of their devotion is about ten miles from *Baku*, a city situated by an excellent haven in the *Caspian* sea, on a dry, rocky soil, where there are several ancient temples of stone, supposed to have been all dedicated to fire; but most of them were only arched vaults, about ten or fifteen feet high. Among others is a little temple in which the *Indians* now perform their devotions. Near the altar is a large hollow cane, from the end of which issues a blue flame like that of a lamp burning with spirits, but to appearance more pure.

pure. This flame the *Indians* pretend has continued ever since the flood, and they fancy it will last 'till the end of the world. Here are generally forty or fifty poor devotees, who come on a pilgrimage from their own country, and feed upon a kind of *Jerusalem* artichokes, wild cellery, and several other herbs and roots. They pretend to make expiation both for their own sins and those of others, and continue longer in proportion to the number of persons for whom they promise to pray. They mark their forehead with saffron, and have a great veneration for a red cow. They wear but little cloathing, and those most distinguished for their piety put one of their arms upon their heads, or some other part of the body, and keep it unalterably fixed in that position.

At a small distance from the temple, is a low cleft of a rock, in which is an horizontal gap two feet from the ground, near six long, and about three broad, from which issues a blue flame like that already described: in still weather it burns low, but when the wind blows, it sometimes rises eight feet high, and yet it is not perceived that the flame makes any impression on the rock. The *Indians* here also pay their adorations, and say that if these fires are stopped in one place, they will rise in another. But what appears still more extraordinary is, that the earth for above two miles round this place has this property, that on taking up two or three inches of the surface, and applying a live coal, the part uncovered immediately takes fire, almost before the coal touches

touches it: the flame heats the soil, but does not consume it, nor does it affect the earth that is near it; but this earth carried to another place does not produce this effect. If a cane, or even a paper tube, be set about two inches in the ground and closed up with earth below, on touching the top of it with a live coal, and blowing upon it, a flame immediately issues, without burning either the cane or the paper, provided the edges be covered with clay; and this method they use for light in their houses, which have no other floor but the earth: three or four of these lighted canes will boil water in a pot, and thus they dress their victuals. The flame may be extinguished in the same manner as that of spirits of wine. The ground is here dry and stony, and the more stony it is, the stronger and clearer is the flame: it has a sulphureous smell like naptha; but it is not very offensive. It burns lime to great perfection.

Near this place brimstone is dug, and springs of naptha are found. The chief place for the black or dark grey naptha, is the small island *Wetoy*, which is now uninhabited, except when they are taking naptha. The springs boil up highest when the weather is thick and hazy; and the naptha often takes fire on the surface; and runs in great quantities in a flame into the sea, to an almost incredible distance from the shore. In clear weather the springs do not boil up above two or three feet. This oily substance in boiling over becomes of such a consistence, as by degrees almost to close the mouth of the spring: sometimes it is quite closed

closed, and forms hillocks as black as pitch; but when a spring is resisted in one place, it breaks out in another; some that have not been long open, form a mouth of eight or ten feet diameter. It is unpleasant to the smell, and is mostly used by the poor among the *Persians* and the neighbouring people, as we use oil in lamps, or to boil their provisions; but it gives the food a disagreeable taste. It burns best when mixed with a small quantity of ashes; and as there is great plenty of it, every family is well supplied. They keep it in earthen vessels under ground, at a small distance from their houses, on account of its being very liable to take fire.

In the peninsula of *Apecheron* there is a white naptha of a much thinner consistence, which the *Russians* drink as a cordial and medicine; it is also used externally, and is said to be carried into *India*, where being prepared, it makes the most beautiful and lasting varnish yet found.

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The End of the FOURTEENTH VOLUME.

